

SEED-Net *News*

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



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AUN/SEED-Net Yields Positive Results Save For Financial Sustainability

The AUN/SEED-Net Project yielded positive results in most evaluation criteria but effectiveness and sustainability in terms of finance, which were evaluated as medium and low respectively, according to the result of the Mid-term Review reported by JICA.

The result of the Mid-term Review of the AUN/SEED-Net Project's Phase II was revealed at the 17th Steering Committee Meeting and Year 2010 Annual Meeting of the AUN/SEED-Net Project, organized on November 8, 2010 in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, with Institut Teknologi Brunei as the Chair of the Steering Committee and the host of the event. Presidents or Rectors, Vice Presidents or Pro Rectors, and Deans or Vice Deans of Engineering from all member institutions in ASEAN, Chairman of Japanese Supporting University Consortium, Director General of Human Development Department of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Executive Director of ASEAN University Network, representative of ASEAN Foundation as well as executives of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat assemble to



follow up the Project's progress and discuss issues in activity implementation. Most importantly, they discussed about the network's future based on results of the Mid-term Review reported by JICA.

Conducted by JICA Headquarters during September - October 2010, the Mid-term Review disclosed that the Project's objectives to establish 'a foundation of a sustainable framework of human resource development in engineering field contributing to social and economic development of ASEAN' was likely to be achieved. However, looking into perspectives of five evaluation criteria, relevance, efficiency and impact were rated high while effectiveness was evaluated as medium and sustainability in terms of finance was identified as low. The result called for clarifications on setting up of academic society and contributions from member institutions, member countries and other agencies or industries to sustain the AUN/SEED-Net Project besides the contribution from JICA, which now accounted for over 70% of the Project's budget.



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Members Start Joint Research on Energy

At the 3rd Regional Conference on New/Renewable Energy (NRE) held by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) on October 13-14, 2010 in Penang, active discussion was made on joint research on new/renewable energy between member institutions and Japanese universities that might be proposed for external funding. So far a number of joint projects have been kicked off among the members and with partners beyond the network e.g. Tokyo Institute of Technology (TIT) - USM supported by Malaysian government, TIT - Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT) to be proposed for Vietnamese government's funding, Tokai University – Chulalongkorn University (CU) to be funded by government's budget, Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS) - USM, and Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) - HCMUT. Many of these projects have been derived from collaborations and negotiations during Japanese professor dispatches and short-term visits in ASEAN supported by AUN/SEED-Net.

Attended by 52 participants, NRE conference had 45 paper presentations. To attract more academicians and improve conference quality, widening of research topics and setup of scientific committee would be considered. For next year, it will be held by HCMUT tentatively on October 12-13, 2011.



Civil & Environmental Engineering Joint Conferences

Joint Regional Conferences in Civil Engineering (CE) and Environmental Engineering (EnvE), supported by ASEAN Foundation and JICA, were organized in conjunction with the 1st Seminar on Asian Water Environment, supported by Japan Society for Promotion of Science (JSPS), on the theme "Harmonizing Infrastructure with the Environment". The event drew together 140 participants including Japanese professors and students, member institution staff, ASEAN students, as well as government and private sectors in the Philippines. Totally 95 oral presentations were made, seven of which by keynote speakers. Poster competition was also arranged with 33 entrants. Selected papers and posters will be included in AUN/SEED-Net's ASEAN Engineering Journal after being written in full paper format.

For CE session, participants discussed formation of advisory and scientific committees for the conference to ensure quality and sustainability. Chulalongkorn University (CU) as the host of the field also agreed to update information about Japanese Professor Dispatch Program to other members via web site and e-mail. As for EnvE session, research themes would be expanded to Air Quality Management and Control and Sustainable Transport and Road Safety. Participants also suggested alumni communication improvement and evaluation survey on alumni programs and activities.

The next conferences of the two fields will be held jointly again by Gadjah Mada University (UGM) in late 2011.



AUN/SEED-Net Yields Positive Results

(Continued from page 1)

It would be the biggest challenge for the members to become more independent from JICA beyond Phase II. Involvement of industry and other institutions outside the networks should be emphasized and promoted. Regional conferences and ASEAN Engineering Journal, the newly established journal of the network, would be stepping stones for the establishment of academic societies or university consortium. Funding issue would be further considered and concluded for proposals to the ministries of higher education in ASEAN countries by the member institutions later.



NRM Calls For Partners in Different Fields

The 3rd Regional Conference on Natural Resources and Materials (NRM) in the theme of “Sustainable Development in ASEAN through Networking in NRM” took place in Langkawi, Malaysia during October 25-26, 2010 with 84 participants including those from Malaysian government and industrial sectors. There were 47 papers and 36 posters presented in diverse topics ranged from minerals, oil, to plants. Organized by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) with main funding from ASEAN Foundation, it was worth mentioning that this event was co-sponsored by seven industrial companies in Malaysia.

The participants shared their collaborations in NRM such as industrial minerals by CU-UGM-USM and rare earth resources by Kyushu University. Networking with ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals in sustainable mineral mining and regional mineral resources database was also encouraged. As an interdisciplinary area, however, NRM expected to have partnerships with different host fields such as Environmental Engineering.

University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP) will hold the next year’s conference, but date was to be confirmed.

Geological Experts Explore Angkor

The 3rd Regional Conference in Geological Engineering was held by Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC) in Siem Reap, Cambodia on November 25-26, 2010. It attracted 80 participants including non-AUN/SEED-Net member institutes and Cambodian government agencies, e.g. ASEAN Foundation; Kanazawa University, Japan; University of New South Wales, Australia; Technological University of Applied Sciences Georg Agricola (TFH-Bochum), Germany; Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap (APASARA); Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport; Ministry of Industry Mine and Energy; and Ministry of Agriculture. Apart from four keynote and 26 technical paper presentations, six presentations on geology education and international network were also given; and participants were invited to send papers to AUN/SEED-Net’s ASEAN Engineering Journal and Journal of Southeast Asian Applied Geology.



After the conference, attendants explored Angkor Temple and 20 of them joined the next day’s trip to further study its construction and restoration guided by Professor Etsuo Uchida from Waseda University, who is a member of Japanese Government Team for Safeguarding Angkor (JSA). The conference in this field will be held again by National University of Laos (NUOL) in January 2012.

Staff Change



Program Coordinator Mr. Ohashi Yuichi already left the AUN/SEED-Net Project Office in the end of October 2010.



Mr. Shirouzu Kenichi has joined the Project since November 3, 2010 as Chief Coordinator. He is in charge of project administration and the field of Information & Communication Technology (ICT).



Mr. Takahashi Atsushi, Deputy Chief Coordinator, now is responsible for Manufacturing Engineering field, accounting, and general affairs.



Ms. Dawan Subpoonpol has joined the Project as Program Officer since October 10, 2010 to work on Graduate Programs in ASEAN, alumni, journal and database.

Manufacturing Engineering Requires More PhD Students



On December 8-9, 2010 the 3rd AUN/SEED-Net Regional Conference in Manufacturing Engineering was organized in conjunction with the 11th Asia Pacific Industrial Engineering & Manufacturing Systems (APIEMS 2010) and the 13th Asia Pacific Regional Meeting of the International Foundation for Production Research (IFPR-AR) by University of Malaya (UM) at Melaka, Malaysia. Funding for this conference was jointly supported by JICA, APIEMS, and UM. This event altogether attracted over 300 participants, with seven parallel sessions for various topics with main focus on industrial engineering. It received as many as around 600 papers, of which around 300 papers were published in proceedings. Twelve excellent papers were selected to be published in Journal of Zhejiang University as a special part-issue. On this occasion, Prof. Dr. Hideki Aoyama from Keio University promoted the Japan Society of Precision Engineering (JSPE) to ASEAN delegates.

As the host of Manufacturing Engineering, UM would like to promote PhD Sandwich program more and requested faculty members and alumni to encourage applications by their students or juniors. Ms. Julirose Gonzales, current PhD Sandwich student continuing from her master's study at UM, also gave a talk on advantages of this program at UM such as being able to experience both Malaysia and Japan environment.

Since four member institutions have been pitching to organize the next conference, UM would consider the proposals and announce the next organizer soon.



ASEAN Engineering Journal Calls for Papers

The ASEAN Engineering Journal calls for papers now! The journal is scheduled to be released quarterly in both electronic and hard copy formats under the scope of nine engineering fields. It publishes following types of papers: *Full Papers*, *Notes*, and *Technical Reports*. *Reviews* are published irregularly on request to specified authors.

Papers from faculty members, researchers, and students from all over the ASEAN region are welcome at journal@aun-seed.net. The guideline and the citation format are available on our web site.



Upcoming Events

Find latest schedules and more details at <http://www.seed-net.org/calendar.php>

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| January 20-21, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference in Chemical Engineering: Leading the Frontiers in Chemical Engineering Research and Development in the ASEAN Region @ Manila, the Philippines (http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/conferences/rcce/2011/) |
| February 2-3, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference on Materials @ Yogyakarta, Indonesia (http://icme2010.ugm.ac.id/) |
| February 21-22, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference on Global Environment: Towards a Solution to the Challenge of Global Warming in ASEAN Region @ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia |
| March 3-4, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference on Biotechnology: Bioproducts and Bioprocess @ Hanoi, Vietnam |
| March 4-5, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference in Mechanical and Aerospace Technology @ Manila, the Philippines (http://www.dlsu.edu.ph/conferences/rcmeae/2011/) |
| March 10-11, 2011 | The 3 rd Regional Conference on ICT for Industry Developments and Applications in ASEAN Countries @ Vientiane, Lao PDR (http://rcict2011-lao.com) |