Signing Ceremony of the AUN/SEED-Net Cooperative Framework

Representatives of governments and leading universities in ASEAN and Japan gathered in Bangkok on November 29, 2012 to sign on the Cooperative Framework of the AUN/SEED-Net or ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network. The signing marked the new page of higher education collaboration in the ASEAN region where leading universities work together for socio-economic development with cooperation from the industry, which would contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community.

The Signing Ceremony of the Cooperative Framework of the AUN/SEED-Net was held on November 29, 2012 at the Grand Millennium Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok. The event comprised two sessions: First, the Panel Discussion on Perspective on engineering higher education and university network in Southeast Asia for contribution to “ASEAN Community”, and second, the Signing Ceremony of the “Cooperative Framework”. The panel discussion presented the keynote lecture by Prof. Dr. Tsutomu Kimura, Chairperson of Advisory Committee for AUN/SEED-Net Project and Advisor to the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan, with two invited addresses by H.E. Dr. Phoeurng Sackona, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of Cambodia and Prof. Dr. Dwikorita Karnawati, Vice Rector for Cooperation and Alumni, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Indonesia. The discussion part was chaired by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Atsushi Sunami from National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Japan. The participants extensively discussed the topic and concluded that the ASEAN Community would need free flow of resources, positive relationship between high-quality engineering higher education and economic development, and stronger skills of labor force through tertiary education, all of which could be contributed by engineering higher education network like AUN/SEED-Net.

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Signing Ceremony

After the panel discussion session, the signing session was organized and attended by over a hundred honorable participants. The ceremony was presided by Mr. Akihiko Tanaka, President, Japan International Cooperation Agency and Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee, M.D., Deputy Secretary General, Commission on Higher Education of Thailand. Congratulatory addresses were delivered by H.E. Mr. Kimihiro Ishikane, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Mission of Japan to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and several representatives of the member countries and the ASEAN University Network.

The Signing of the Cooperative Framework of the AUN/SEED-Net was a significant milestone for the AUN/SEED-Net Network since the Inauguration Ceremony in 2001. The new Cooperative Framework was made for the operation of the AUN/SEED-Net from March 2013 onwards, identifying the structure and the expansion of the Network. From next March, the Network will include seven new member institutions from ASEAN: University of Indonesia and Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember from Indonesia, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia and Universiti Putra Malaysia from Malaysia, Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology from the Philippines, and Kasetsart University and Thammasat University from Thailand; plus three new supporting universities from Japan: Nagoya University, Osaka University, and Tohoku University.

The AUN/SEED-Net was established in 2001 from the initiative derived at the ASEAN – Japan Summit as a framework toward sustainable development after the economic crisis that stroke the Asian region. Initially the Network comprises 19 leading engineering institutions in ASEAN and 11 supporting universities in Japan. These top universities cooperate in joint supervision of AUN/SEED-Net scholars, researches, program development, knowledge exchange and technology transfer. From the beginning until now, we have given scholarships to over 800 students and young teaching staff to study in master’s and doctoral levels to strengthen faculty qualifications and academic capacities. From this huge number over 500 have graduated from ASEAN countries as well as Japan. Most alumni has been working in their home countries as academic staff, determining to educate and develop more qualified lecturers and professionals in engineering, which are needed for sustainable development of the member countries. We also produce a number of collaborative research projects between the ASEAN member institutions and Japanese supporting universities, tighten connection and partnership among them, and set off the network of engineering experts among ASEAN and Japan. Around 90 scholarships and a lot of research grants are awarded annually to ASEAN students and faculty staff; while 80 professors from Japan are dispatched to the ASEAN region for expertise transfer each year.

Impressive outputs of the AUN/SEED-Net Network include development of engineering lecturers and researchers, strengthening of graduate programs, and establishment of human network among ASEAN and Japan. The strategy of AUN/SEED-Net in assigning a number of universities as hosts or regional hubs to train students and young staff of other universities have become a flagship model for other academic networks.

For five years from now, the AUN/SEED-Net would focus on three missions. First, we would contribute to advancement 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 capacities 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. These are new collaborations among the universities in this region and also the first kind of cooperation between the academic network and the industries in ASEAN. With high expectation from the concerned parties and governments, the AUN/SEED-Net can contribute to the establishment of the ASEAN Community especially in fostering solidarity among academics and professionals and producing high-quality manpower with ASEANness.
The 5th Regional Conference on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was organized by De La Salle University on October 18-19, 2012. This is the last conference in ICT field in this phase, before its name will be changed to Computer and Information Engineering (CIE) in the next phase of AUN/SEED-Net with two host universities: King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM).

The event was officially opened by a remark from Br. Ricardo P. Laguda, President of De La Salle University, followed by welcome addresses from Hon. Maria Lourdes P. Orijola, Assistant Secretary for Technology Transfer, Department of Science and Technology. Through two-day program, all activities proceeded with keynotes presented by four Japanese professors included: “Study on Surgical Stereo Image Compression using Color-Gray Pair” by Prof. Hamamoto, “Design of Noise Robust Speech Recognition Systems” by Prof. Miyanaga, “Module-based Robotic Software Development – A case study using RT-Middleware” by Prof. Miura, and “Measurement and Control of Human Brain Dynamics” by Prof. Iramina. In addition, 21 papers were exchanged among participants from different organizations including member institutions, AUN/SEED-Net students, and other non-member institutions in two parallel sessions.

ICT Becomes CIE in Phase 3

The 5th Regional Conference on Information and Communications Technology (ICT) was organized by De La Salle University on October 18-19, 2012. This is the last conference in ICT field in this phase, before its name will be changed to Computer and Information Engineering (CIE) in the next phase of AUN/SEED-Net with two host universities: King Mongkut’s Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL) and Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM).

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Civil & Environmental Engineering Conference and Asian Water Environment Seminar

For the third time Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering fields had joint regional conference. In this year, the conference was jointly organized with the 3rd Seminar on Asian Water Environment of Asian Core Program on October 25-26 by Faculty of Civil Engineering and Faculty of Environment, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT) and co-hosted by Department of Civil Engineering, Faculty of Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology. Entitled “the 5th AUN/SEED-Net Regional Conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering and the 3rd Seminar on Asian Water Environment”, the conference brought together more than 140 participants from ASEAN and Japan to share state-of-the-art researches in the fields. A total of 91 papers and five keynote speakers were presented.

As the last regional conference of Phase 2, during AUN/SEED-Net discussion session, participants shared the success stories and discussed activities of the fields during the past four years, as well as discussed future activities in Phase 3. It was tentatively agreed that next conference on Civil and Environmental Engineering will again be jointly held by Chulalongkorn University in Thailand.

Last Conference on Global Environment

The 5th Regional Conference in Global Environment was hosted by Institut Teknologi Bandung during November 21-22, 2012. As many as 106 participants attended the conference, including 20 from member institutions (MIs) with AUN/SEED-Net support, 48 self-supported MIs’ faculty staff and students, 4 Japanese Professors, 2 alumni, local participants, and interested parties. Four plenary lectures were given by eminent professors: Prof. Mitsuri Osaki and Prof. Naoyuki Fanamizu, Hokkaido University; Prof. Yasushi Kiyoki, Keio University; and Assoc. Prof. Shinjiro Kanae, Tokyo Institute of Technology. A total of 95 papers were presented in this conference divided into ten sections: Water Pollution Control, Air Pollution Control, Climate Change, Coastal Environment and Vulnerability, Energy Efficiency, Green Technology, Sustainable Consumption and Production, Sustainable Waste Management, and Peat Water Management.

Since it is the last regional conference on Global Environment before it will be merged with Environmental Engineering in Phase 3, Dr. Maria A. Tanchuling, Field Coordinator, reported outputs from the passing phase and success stories to all participants. The host for 2013 Regional Conference on Environmental Engineering (incorporated with Civil Engineering) will be Chulalongkorn University. The event will take place in October 2013.
What International Education Brings About

By Prof. Shinnosuke Obi,
Chairman of Japanese Supporting University Consortium and Professor of Keio University

Having international students in the laboratory makes me feel pleasant. There are a number of students who originate from different countries, for example, Indonesia, Iran, Vietnam, Japan, Myanmar, and Germany, share rooms around my office. These international students of various origins come to my laboratory for slightly different reasons, but they all look for something interesting or stimulating their curiosity in scientific research. I am pleased to see their strong motivation of learning, and strongly hope that they appreciate being here as valuable experience regardless of their length of stay and even after they find themselves at different places for future career.

On the other hand, the attitude of international students seems to motivate local ones. Two local students in the group are now studying in Europe, one master course student participating in an international program in France and the other PhD student is conducting experiments at a German university. I consider it as a favorable tendency that the students do not stick to one place while they study but move around across borders to experience a lot of different things which is otherwise not possible.

One of our tasks as university professor is to strive for original research which attracts people from outside the country and to maintain the open academic atmosphere for students to communicate with the outside world. To this end, the AUN/SEED-Net activity is definitely one of the best practices of the higher education institutes in terms of promoting international education while retaining the quality. I am proud of being a part of the project since it started in 2002 and enjoy a lot by visiting various places and communicating with excellent people in the region. I hope that someday Japanese students find interest of visiting the ASEAN region and eventually stay at the universities there for research purpose. Such scene may be seen in the near future but sooner than we anticipate now.

Upcoming Events

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

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<td>January 15-16, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Conference in Geological Engineering @ Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia</td>
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<td>January 22-23, 2013</td>
<td>Joint Regional Conferences on Materials &amp; Natural Resources and Materials</td>
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<td>January 23-24, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Conference on Biotechnology &quot;Biotechnology for Biorefinery&quot; @ Bandung, Indonesia</td>
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<td>February 4-5, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Conference in Electrical &amp; Electronics Engineering &quot;Advance Systems and Information&quot; @ Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<td>February 7-8, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Conference on Chemical Engineering &quot;Moving towards the New Chapter in Chemical Engineering amongst ASEAN Region&quot; @ Pattaya, Thailand</td>
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<td>February 12-13, 2013</td>
<td>Regional Conference in Mechanical/Aeronautical Engineering &quot;Building Education Network for the Future Development!&quot; @ Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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<td>March 11-12, 2013</td>
<td>Working Group Meeting @ Bangkok, Thailand</td>
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