Every New Year gives us the perfect chance to reflect on the past year and also brings about new ideas and fresh start.

Our 2018 marked a new but firm step for Phase IV of our project despite the unforeseen budgeting obstacle in JICA. Following our new motto, “PLANT THE SEED OF FUTURE, GROW ASEAN-JAPAN NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY,” we introduced two new programs, which are specifically designed to nourish and pass on our achievements. “Collaborative Education Program” (CEP) demonstrates a unique model of academic collaboration, which allows Member Institutions to set up a consortium consisting of Japanese universities, other ASEAN universities, and industrial sectors to provide graduate degree programs with financial support from AUN/SEED-Net. The program not only aims to strengthen the relationships among academic and industrial partners, but also indicates AUN/SEED-Net’s strong encouragement and support for Member Institutions’ autonomy.

“Alumni Support Program” (ASP) which aims to support over 1,000 AUN/SEED-Net alumni to establish a solid alumni group or association is another significant approach toward sustainability of our project. AUN/SEED-Net sees the importance of maintaining and expanding the network of of alumni in both industry and academia through a wide range of academic activities conducted by alumni including seminar, workshop, and training on various themes.
Along with CEP and ASP, the continuous implementations of “Regional Conference” (RC), and “ASEAN Engineering Journal” (AEJ) are also the key programs to cultivate the seed of future. With our best effort, our achievements in the past year include a consortium established by Member Institutions and alliances for CEP, expansions of our alumni under ASP, research discoveries shared with other professionals at RC, and academic papers submitted and published by AEJ. These results unquestionably reflect a great milestone for our project. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all distinguished partners for your sincere support and dedication. Together with you, we aim that both ASEAN and Japan will be developed sustainably through the development of innovative and highly skilled human resources in the engineering field.

2019 promises to be another fruitful year. Happy New Year and warm greetings as we begin 2019!

With all my best wishes,
Prof. Dr. UEDA Tamon
Chief Advisor and Acting Executive Director
JICA Project for AUN/SEED-Net

CEP: A Great Leap Forward towards Sustainability

Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology, Thammasat University (SIIT) has successfully recruited two grantees for 2019 doctoral program intake funded by AUN/SEED-Net’s Collaborative Education Program or CEP.

Asst. Prof. Dr. Kriengsak Panuwatwanich

The program is formulated by our first CEP consortium, which consists of both academic institutions and industrial sectors namely Sirindhorn International Institute of Technology - Thammasat University (SIIT), Hokkaido University, Institute of Technology of Cambodia, Thai Obayashi Corporation Limited, and Taiheiyo Cement Corporation. Since August 2018, SIIT has led its consortium and embarked on the mission to further enhance the ASEAN-Japan network.

“Through CEP, not only SIIT but also the other partners have strengthened existing relationship among each other. Their reputation has been expanded as leading international institutions with the ability to offer and manage a fully-funded joint doctoral program at multi-national level.” stated Asst. Prof. Dr. Kriengsak Panuwatwanich, one of the key persons of the consortium from School of Civil Engineering and Technology.

As a requirement of the program, applying member universities need to form a partnership with Japanese universities, private companies or research institutes, and other universities outside AUN/SEED-Net network. Awarded applicant is equipped with not only funding but also flexibility, to design and to implement their own higher education program(s). A variety of academic activities could be embedded with the study to ensure student mobility, knowledge and skills that are truly applicable with needs in private sectors.
As the consortium is now ready to launch a double degree program in civil engineering, ASEAN students will benefit from full board scholarships as well as an opportunity to study in both Thailand and Japan.

“The program is designed to allow students to get accustomed with cross-institution research environment and to acquire significant body of knowledge that is unique to both Thailand and Japan,” Dr. Kriengsak shared his thought on the program.

Apart from the productive multi-national collaboration and the fruits students can reap from the program, Dr. Kriengsak also sees the crucial benefits from involving industrial partners, Thai Obayashi Corporation Limited, and Taiheiyo Cement Corporation, in the consortium.

“The input from the industry also helps the graduates to understand how an industry-based research project should be developed and managed. This is a critical skill for the next generation PhD graduates who would appreciate the industry's "pain points" and understand how to apply their research skills to develop and manage a strategic research project than can directly address such pain points. We foresee that graduates from the CEP could be highly employable and highly sought after.” added Dr. Kriengsak. For the script of this full interview with Dr. Kriengsak, visit AUN/SEED-Net Facebook.

Alumni Support Program (ASP) - A Program of Alumni for Alumni

More than 15 years of our project history with over 1,000 alumni and countless academic activities, AUN/SEED.Net seeks to sustain our good collaboration and expand the network. Alumni Support Program (ASP) has been specially created to meet the needs of alumni who know what is best for their connection. This is truly “a program of alumni for alumni”.

ASP offers financial support for AUN/SEED-Net alumni through member institutions to help establishing solid network and to facilitate research and educational activities, which will ultimately lead to a long-term and sustainable national and international collaboration.

We are pleased to inform the result of the total 5 ASP awardees in Japanese Fiscal Year (JFY) 2018 and 2019 as follows;

JFY2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Institutions</th>
<th>Name of an alumni group/ association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HUST, Vietnam</td>
<td>HUST/SEED-Net Alumni Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ITC, Cambodia</td>
<td>Cambodia AUN/Seed-net Alumni (CASA)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

JFY2019

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Member Institutions</th>
<th>Name of an alumni group/ association</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ITC, Cambodia</td>
<td>Cambodia AUN/Seed-net Alumni (CASA)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCMUT, Vietnam</td>
<td>HCMUT AUN/SEED-Net Alumni Association (H3A)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTM, Malaysia</td>
<td>UTM Engineering &amp; Sustainability SEED.Net Alumni</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to all for the success, particularly to ITC which has received the support in 2 consecutive years.
Through a variety of the activities in this fiscal year including workshop, seminar, training, meeting and industrial site visit, we are confident that our network is expanding and our alumni have gained useful connection vital for their future career path. We are looking forward to welcoming more AUN/SEED-Net alumni group/association in the region for the years to come.

A Year in Review: 7 Regional Conferences Successfully Held in 2018

For more than a decade, AUN/SEED-Net RCs have been a platform for knowledge sharing where participants can fully benefit from this academic and professional community through presentation of researches and interesting lectures delivered by experienced speakers. Each year, the activity attracts many from the academia, industry and government sectors across ASEAN. No exception to our 7 RCs held in 2018, which have gathered over 1,300 participants from different parts of the world.

We hope that our participants enjoy fruitful discussions and the exchange of new and innovative information. This helps strengthening AUN/SEED-Net scholar network and further expanding connections among academic and professional staff in the region.

See our success in 2018!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>Place</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August 14-15, 2018</td>
<td>Electrical and Electronics</td>
<td>Universiti Sains Malaysia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engineering (RC EEE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 3-5, 2018</td>
<td>Natural Disaster (RC ND)</td>
<td>Universitas Gadjah Mada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 5-6, 2018</td>
<td>Civil Engineering (RC CE)</td>
<td>Universitas Gadjah Mada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27-28, 2018</td>
<td>Environmental Engineering</td>
<td>Institute of Technology of Cambodia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(RC EnvE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 27-28, 2018</td>
<td>Energy Engineering</td>
<td>University of the Philippines Diliman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(RC EneE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 7-8, 2018</td>
<td>Chemical Engineering</td>
<td>Universitas Gadjah Mada</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(RC ChE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 26-27, 2018</td>
<td>Computer and Information</td>
<td>Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Engineering (RC CIE)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides RCs, the Field Management Meetings (FMM) meetings were also held in parallel to discuss the future trends and long-term direction of each engineering field with a mutual goal to achieve sustainability. Representatives from Japanese Supporting Universities, ASEAN Host Institutions and AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat were also present at the meeting.

AUN/SEED.Net Office would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to academic staff and students of our Member Institutions (MIs) who have been outstanding RC hosts and active participants. Your contribution is an essential part of our success.
*What's New*

In 2019, AUN/SEED.Net has launched “Online Application” feature for everyone’s better convenience, and set the same deadlines for every engineering field to ensure the equal opportunity for all MIs to apply and have a chance of hosting the conferences.

We look forward to meeting you again in the upcoming RC 2019!
Spread Your Wings and Prepare to LEAVE A NEST!

AUN/SEED-Net delightfully and warmly welcomes LEAVE A NEST CO.LTD.--- our new partner who is eager to bring in good opportunities for researchers and entrepreneurs to have hands-on experience in working with corporates.

LEAVE A NEST CO. LTD. is a Japanese company, which specializes in extensive projects related to science and technology. Among which is TECH PLANTER, the seed acceleration program to support commercialization of research in universities through industry-university collaboration.

This one-of-a-kind program is to provide startups with mentoring, fundraising and market expansion opportunities in Asia, especially in Japan. The activity offers a rare opportunity to get effective training and coaching from the company with a vast collaborative network of over 100 business partners, 2,000 teachers and 10,000 researchers.

By joining TECH PLANTER Demo Day, you will have a chance to:

1. Receive constructive feedback on your research or business model from industry experts
2. Potential research collaborations, prototyping help and investments from conglomerates, especially Japanese.
3. Win funding for your project or startup idea and fly to Singapore to attend TECH PLANTER Demo Day in Singapore.

These are the events lining up for Indonesia, Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tech Planter</th>
<th>Information session</th>
<th>Application dateline</th>
<th>Demo day</th>
<th>Key contact person</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Email: hakim@lne.st |
| Philippines  | 13th – 15th December 2018, 27th February – 1st March 2019 | 12th April 2019 | 18th May 2019 | Kevin Ng  
Email: kevin@lne.st |
| Vietnam      | 10th – 12th January 2019, 14th – 16th March 2019 | 26th April 2019 | 1st June 2019 | Jeremy Lim  
Email: jeremy@e.leaveanest.com |
Email: jeremy@e.leaveanest.com |
| Malaysia     | Available from December 2018 – June 2019 | 7th June 2019 | 20th July 2019 | Hakim Sahidi  
Email: hakim@lne.st |
| Singapore    | Available from February 2019 – June 2019 | 28th June 2019 | 3rd August 2019 | Kevin Ng  
Email: kevin@lne.st |

For details, go to [https://en.techplanter.com/](https://en.techplanter.com/)
Meet our new staff at AUN/SEED-Net

We are pleased to welcome four new staff members to our Secretariat!

Please join us in welcoming all of them.

Mr. Eiichiro Takahashi, Project Coordinator from July 31
“It is my honor to work for this valuable project which has been assisting human resources development in the field of engineering for a long time. I’d try my best to contribute to sustainment and expansion of what people concerned have achieved.”

Mr. Hideki Shimazu, Project Coordinator from August 6
“I am honored to be able to participate in AUN/SEED-Net project that has just started its Phase 4. I will do my level best to make the existing university network more sustainable to benefit both ASEAN and Japanese Universities in the future.”

Ms. Paveenut Supanaroek (Uaey), Accounting Officer from September 17
“I am very glad and excited at the same time, being given the opportunity to join this project. Now that we are entering Phase 4 where the focus has shifted toward sustainability, let’s make this wheel of Engineering network keep on rolling.”

Ms. Paew Pirom (Paew), Program Officer (Editorial) from October 1
“I genuinely appreciate the opportunity to join AUN/SEED-Net family. Sustainable engineering education is undoubtedly a unique and interesting field of development. As an editorial team member of ASEAN Engineering Journal, I am eager to contribute my skills and experiences for the journal to reach its next milestone in success and reap a fruitful achievement in the future.”