



SEAMEO RIHED
Annual Report
2008/2009



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

FOR

SEAMEO RIHED ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009

SEAMEO RIHED is the SEAMEO Centre specialising in regional cooperation on higher education development. Our key objective is to foster efficiency and effectiveness of higher education in Southeast Asian Member states through research and professional trainings. SEAMEO RIHED also serves as the regional centre promoting the exchange and dissemination of information and research findings on higher education planning and management. The FY 2008/2009 was the second year in which SEAMEO RIHED started the operation under the Third Five-Year Development Plan, following SEAMEO RIHED's strategy 'Partnership on research-driven activities' in the area of strategic planning and university governance. The fiscal year we focused several activities on raise awareness among key policy makers and stakeholders through both academic and non-academic venues. The Centre has also tried to incorporate the process of harmonisation into the existing Centre's activities, including the establishment of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) for the future development of ASEAN QA guidelines, the Conference on Raising Awareness to gather the valuable inputs from ASEAN scholars and experts from outside the region, and also the conduct of the 3rd Director General/Secretary General and Commissioner responsible for Higher Education Meeting to explore the possibility in identifying priority areas and setting up official follow-up group. As 'Your Partner in Higher Education,' it is our commitment to strive for the betterment of higher education in Southeast Asia.



This executive summary highlights the Centre's achievements in five key areas including the programme enhancement and promotion of quality and relevance, the improvement of Centre's management, the enhancement of financial viability through increased revenues and cost control, the improvement of market access to SEAMEO RIHED's programmes, and finally, the promotion of national, regional, and international linkages.

PROGRAMME ENHANCEMENT OF QUALITY AND RELEVANCE

SEAMEO RIHED is committed to the promotion of cooperation and development of higher education in the region by way of assisting the Member Countries in fostering efficiency and effectiveness through policy-oriented research, and professional trainings, workshops, seminars and conferences. The Centre also serves as a clearing house for higher education information and documentation as well as a hub for promoting collaboration among the Member Countries. The Centre carries out its mission by conducting research and providing professional trainings and information on higher education administration, policy planning and policy management to SEAMEO Member Countries. SEAMEO RIHED is constantly striving to increase the quality and relevance of the programmes it offers. The following section is a list of completed programme activities and publication for the FY 2008/2009.

1. TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1.1) The 4th Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia

The workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during 21-25 July 2008, and co-organised by the Ministry of Education, Myanmar; International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP); UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED). The workshop was attended by 31 participants from SEAMEO Member Countries. The workshop addressed such issues as globalisation and cross-border higher education, institutional restructuring in higher education, higher education indicators, quality assurance in higher education, resource mobilisation strategies and financial and staff management practices, student mobility as well as national systems of higher education and private universities.



1.2) The 3rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: ‘Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK’



During 18-26 October 2008, SEAMEO RIHED and the International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC) conducted the educational programmes to the United Kingdom for senior university administrators from Thai and other Southeast Asian countries. The theme of the education programme was on ‘Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK’. The programme was attended by 39 senior and middle-ranking administrators across the country. The programme was consisted of detailed briefings from policy makers responsible for UK higher education and QA development and a series of lectures from senior university administrators from leading universities in the UK.

In the 3rd Study Visit to UK, participants visited the QA offices in 1) University of Oxford, 2) University of Cambridge, 3) King’s College London, 4) University of Westminster, 5) University of Gloucestershire and also governmental agencies responsible for QA, including 6) the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), 7) the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and 8) Universities UK.



1.3) The 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the United States of America: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators



In cooperation with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), SEAMEO RIHED had the opportunity to bring chairmen, vice chairmen, members of university council, presidents and senior university administrators from Thailand to visit higher education institutions in the US and also to attend the 2009 AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship in San Diego. The key objective of the programme is to provide the opportunity for senior university administrators and members of university councils to participate in professional development activities to improve their insights and knowledge on recent and current development of US University Governance.

During 17-25 April 2009, thirty-one (31) participants joined the programme, and also visited 5 higher education institutions in San Diego and Los Angeles. The list of institutional visits was: 1) University of San Diego, 2) University of California, San Diego, 3) California State University, Los Angeles, 4) University of Southern California, and 5) Claremont Colleges.

The Report of the 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the USA: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators will be completed in August 2009. SEAMEO RIHED will conduct **an open seminar on University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators in Thailand: Experience from the 2nd Educational Visit to the USA** to disseminate the information to and share the knowledge about the US university governance and university council with the public. The seminar is expected to be held in October 2009 and the distinguished from the educational trip will join the panel of speakers.

1.4) Workshop on the Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia



On 30 June 2009, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ASIA SEED INSTITUTE and SEAMEO RIHED joined force to organise the 'Workshop on The Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labour Market in East Asia' in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to get inputs and comments from the delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan for the further study on the impact of cross border higher education and the development of regional and national higher education policy. Twenty six delegations helped comment on the draft questionnaires, selection methods of sample universities and internationally collaborated degree programs as well as the implementation methods and research schedules. More information of the research project and the progress can be found in <http://jica-ri.jica.go.jp/research/aid-strategy/emerging-aid-agenda/index.html>



2.1) Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

In 2008, the book on *The Harmonisation of Higher Education: Lessons Learned from the Bologna Process* was the result of the preliminary study based on the study on public documents, official papers and inputs from conference and workshop materials which were previously presented in several international conferences and workshops. The book was set to provide the background of the harmonisation initiatives and the step from which to launch the project on harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia.



Following the publication of the book, SEAMEO RIHED conducted a 7-month project on the Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia. The project was mainly funded by the Japan Foundation and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia). It was aimed to set off the first stage, that is, to raise awareness among key stakeholders on the process of higher education harmonisation. The project was consisted of three main activities: 1) **pre-conference workshops** (June-August 2008) which were convened by five country coordinators from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to collect the inputs and ideas on the issue of higher education harmonisation in Southeast Asia from invited key stakeholders in their respective countries through the use of group discussions and survey questionnaires prepared by SEAMEO RIHED; 2) **Country report** (August-September 2008): the country coordinators collected important data from the workshop and wrote country reports; 3) **International Conference** (November 2008) was the concluding part of the project. The country coordinators and experts from Japan, Australia, U.K. and New Zealand presented their country reports and country positions on the process of the harmonisation in higher education in the region.

The important findings and results from the key Southeast Asian coordinators cover the issues of 1) The Ideal form of Higher education Area; 2) Priority Areas for Guideline Development; 3) The Role of the Key Players; 4) The Role of International Organisations; 5) Key Benefits; and 6) Future Scenarios. All papers were compiled in 'The Conference Proceeding: Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia and was published by SEAMEO RIHED in February 2009.

3. CLEARING HOUSE AND PUBLICATIONS

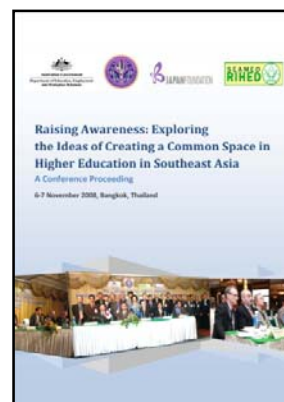


3.1) The Report of the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK

In this report, SEAMEO RIHED combined notes and presentations and also transcribed those lectures delivered by key speakers during each institutional visit, which was held during 18-26 October 2008. All lectures and briefings comprised mainly of the development of quality assurance in the UK as well as techniques, best practice and the process of quality assurance undertaken by Higher Education Institutions. The compilation is useful to those who are dealing with quality assurance issues as well as those who are interested in the development and techniques of quality enhancement.

3.2) The Conference Proceeding 'Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

The conference proceeding combines the final reports on the possibility of developing a 'structured framework for future establishment of a 'common space' in Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) and the papers presented by representatives from advanced higher education systems in Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand into a single volume. The compilation reflected the experiences and viewpoints on the process of harmonisation of higher education in the speakers' respective countries. The papers were presented in The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia, held in November 2008. The publication was the concluding part of the project on The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia.



3.3) SEAMEO RIHED's Bulletin

The Bulletin is published tri-annually, ready for distribution in January, May and September. It aims at promoting SEAMEO RIHED and its activities, and to provide scholars and administrators with current information on higher education in the region.



3.4) SEAMEO RIHED's e-Library and Website

The RIHED's Website provides information and activities of the centre and the information regarding the centre's publications, such as studies, reports and conference/ seminar/ workshop proceedings in e-format. The list of higher education institutions in Southeast Asian Region, and the Electronic Library Services specialising in higher education could also be accessed through the website. The SEAMEO RIHED website can be accessed via the following official link: www.rihed.seameo.org.



4. SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

4.1) The First ASEAN Quality Assurance Roundtable Meeting

SEAMEO RIHED, in close cooperation with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), co-organised the 1st ASEAN Quality Roundtable Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 6-8 July 2008. The 1st ASEAN Quality Roundtable Meeting was participated by representatives from leading QA agencies in Southeast Asia, including: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.



The Meeting has resulted in the agreement that recognises the crucial role of quality assurance in promoting the harmonisation process and encourages active movements towards the development of quality assurance collaboration and sharing. The 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration' adopted by the

participants.

The 2nd Roundtable Meeting was held in March 2009 in Bangkok, Thailand, and was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education (Thailand), MQA, SEAMEO RIHED and ONESQA.

4.2) The Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries

SEAMEO RIHED, with the kind support from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR, convened the Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries on 14 October 2008 at Suphanouvong University, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.



The Regional Seminar was held back-to-back with the 16th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting. SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board members and high-level administrators responsible for higher education from 10 SEAMEO member countries -- Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam -- attended the event as key speakers and presented the updates on university governance in their respective countries. More than 100 university administrators and scholars from Thailand and Lao PDR attended the event.

4.3) The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand during 6-7 November 2008 to disseminate the result of the final reports on the possibility of developing a 'structured framework for future establishment of a 'common space' in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam). In this conference, representatives from advanced higher education systems, such as Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand were invited to present their experiences and viewpoints on the process of harmonisation of higher education in their respective countries.

The international conference was a sub-activities under the project on 'The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia', which was funded by the Japan Foundation and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia). The project was aimed to set off the first stage of the project on 'A Structures Framework for Regional Integration in Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road Towards a Common Space'. It was launched to raise awareness among key stakeholders on the process of higher education harmonisation in Southeast Asia. The event was also attended by representatives from the government agencies responsible for higher education in other ASEAN countries. The total number of attendees during the conference was around 180 people from different sectors.



4.4) The 3rd Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region

The 3rd Meeting of Director General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region was held during 22-23 January 2009, at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and attended by the Directors General and Secretaries General as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand.

The Meeting was held to provide a venue where key policy makers could have an extensive discussion to outline the detailed roadmap for the future collaboration and the development of mechanism leading to the establishment of the process of harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia. In accordance with SEAMEO RIHED's proposal on 5-related steps towards



the establishment of the harmonisation process and the proposed 4 areas of collaborations, the Meeting also agreed that the following activities should be undertaken and the involvement of various organisations should be encouraged: 1) ***Credit Transfer System***; 2) ***Quality Assurance Framework and Qualification Framework***; 3) ***Diploma Supplement***; 4) ***Research Clusters***; 5) ***Leadership Development Programme*** and 6) ***E-learning and Mobile Learning Programme***.

4.5) Seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the United Kingdom (UK): Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK'

Following the '3rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Educational Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities during, which was held during 18-26 October 2008, SEAMEO RIHED, with the support from Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, conducted a follow-up seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK: Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK' on 13 February 2009 at the Commission on higher Education Building, Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar was held to commemorate SEAMEO RIHED's 16th founding anniversary.



The event was attended by almost 120 participants who are interested on the issue of quality education and quality assurance development in Thailand. Most of the participants were from higher education institutions and government agencies responsible for higher education. Honorary speakers were distinguished academics and university administrators who joined the seminar to deliver their thoughts and lessons learned from the educational trip.

4.6) Annual Roundtable Meeting of The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) 2009

Following the 1st AQAN Roundtable Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2008, the Meeting agreed that the AQAN Roundtable will be held annually with specific theme related to quality assurance of higher education. In the year 2009, with the kind cooperation of the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), SEAMEO RIHED and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) organised the 2009 Annual Roundtable Meeting of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) on 20-22 March 2009 at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The theme of the 2nd Meeting was revolved around the issue of Assessors: Current Practices and the Next Steps. During the event, each country presented their country's experiences with regards to quality assurance assessors and auditors. The Roundtable agreed that assessors are crucial to quality assurance work and more attention must be given to assessment and the role of assessors. The Country Reports also showed much similar practice with regards to assessor, such as in terms of methods of and sources for recruitment, criteria for selection, training and training needs and assessment processes, as well as code of ethics for assessors.



ENHANCED QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CENTRE'S MANAGEMENT

Since the inception of the Centre, the number of the Centre's full - time staff are relatively small. At present, the Centre employs only 2 professional and 9 local staff. Although SEAMEO RIHED continues to be a small and flat organisation, it has always put the efforts to promote professional development of its staff as it will help increase the quality and efficiency of the Centre's management. The Centre's staff development programmes in FY 2008/2009 were the following:

- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated in **The Asia-Pacific Sub Regional Preparatory Conference for the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education: "Facing Global and Local Challenges: the New Dynamics for Higher Education"** organised by UNESCO Bangkok in collaboration with Government of Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The organisers also invited Prof. Supachai to give a presentation on "ASEAN Higher Education Area" in the conference. The event held during 24-26 September 2008 at Macao SAR, PR China.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a panelist in a panel discussion: "Setting the Agenda for Asia-Europe Higher Education Cooperation" in **"The First ASEM Rectors' Conference: Asia-Europe Higher Education Leadership Dialogue: Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads"** organised by The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and the European University Association (EUA), with the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Freie Universitat Berlin during 27-29 October 2008 in Berlin, German.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **The 22nd Regular Annual National Conference of the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP)** during 16-17 February 2009 at Manila, Philippines.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **"Sub-regional Preparatory Conference on Higher Education for South, South-West and Central Asia"** organised by Ministry of Resource Development, Government of India and the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi, in collaboration with UNESCO during 25-26 February 2009 at New Delhi, India.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a keynote speaker of **the UMAP Vice President Forum 2009: an International Conference entitled "Some changes of Higher education in Asia and the Pacific: The Focus on Harmonisation and Networking"** and the coordinator of the panel session on Harmonisation and Networking on March 7-8, 2009, in Hiroshima, Japan.

- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended as a speaker in **“The 2nd DIES International Deans’ Course (Southeast Asia), Part III”** organised by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK), the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, the Center for Higher Education Development and the University of Applied Sciences Osnabruck during 15-21 March 2009 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director; Mrs. Thanthakorn Phuangsawat, Programme Officer; and Mrs. Wachareeporn Nilratt, Programme Officer participated in the 2009 AGB National Conference on Trusteeship: The Changing Landscape of Higher Education during 19-21 April 2009 at San Diego, The United States of America.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated in **“The Workshop on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the Asia-Pacific Region”** organised by UNESCO Bangkok in collaboration with the Australian and Philippine governments. The organizers also invited him to give a presentation on “Regional Awareness and Co-operation: Moving toward Harmonisation of a Common Space in Higher Education in Southeast Asia” in the conference. The event held during 6-7 May 2009 at Manila, Philippines.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **“The 2nd ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASEMME2)”** organised by Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam and the ASIA-EUROPE MEETING during 14-15 May 2009 at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a resource person for the fifth discussion theme of the course, “Enhancing and Sustaining Standards and Assessment in Higher Education in Agriculture” in **an executives forum for its “Leadership Excellence in the Academe Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA)”** on 20 May 2009 at Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines. The event organised by SEAMEO SEARCA.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended **“The 2nd Annual National Higher Education Conference 2009: Developing Higher Education as a Key Catalyst to Malaysia’s Competitiveness”** organised by Asia Executive Programs (AEP), and also participated as a one of speakers in The session 3: Constructing ‘Win-Win’ Partnerships in the Higher Education Sector: Identifying Opportunities for Collaboration in Southeast Asia, with Internationally Education Partners and between Public and Private Universities during 25-26 June 2009 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

INCREASED FINANCIAL VIABILITY THROUGH INCREASED REVENUES AND COST CONTROL

Originally, the main funding source for the Centre's programmes and activities was the interest paid from the SEAMEO RIHED's Endowment Fund. In recent years, the interest rates have been in dramatic decrease, which resulted in the diminishing of operating funds. The Royal Thai Government, who has always supported the Centre by providing the Centre's seat at no cost to SEAMEO and underwritten the capital and operating costs of the Centre, has realised the Centre's recent financial hardship and has allotted additional budget to help alleviate some of the Centre's financial constraints. In addition, SEAMEO Secretariat has allocated some special funds to support the Centre's operations. SEAMEO RIHED gratefully acknowledges the support of the Royal Thai Government and SEAMEO Secretariat.

For its part, SEAMEO RIHED has tried to alleviate financial constraints by increasing the number of its partnerships and co-operative efforts so that it can maintain the scope and effectiveness of its programmes and activities. During FY 2008/2009, SEAMEO RIHED has cooperated several institutions and organisations, including a university in Lao PDR, namely Suphanouvang University; seven international, private and governmental agencies, namely, 1) International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), 2) Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), 3) Japan Foundation, 4) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 5) International Training Research and Education Consortium (InTREC), 6) Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), and 7) The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organisation) Thailand; and four national government agencies, namely, 1) The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR, 2) The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia), 3) The Ministry of Education, Myanmar, 4) The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand. Apart from co-hosting, co-organised or sponsored activities with these organisations, SEAMEO RIHED has also created income generating programmes through study visit activities, research projects and publication to help support the running costs of the Centre.

INCREASED MARKET ACCESS TO SEAMEO RIHED'S PROGRAMMES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEAMEO RIHED continues to increase market access to its programmes by using a wide variety of media (poster, rollup board, display exhibition, newspaper, radio, etc.) along with its website and mailing lists. The target groups include the Centre's partner agencies, higher education institutions, and the general public.

The SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin, published 3 times a year and can be accessed through the Centre's website, summarises activities and programmes every 4 months and updates current status of higher education institutions in the region.

The Centre's publications including research studies and conference/seminar/workshop reports and proceedings are on sale at Chulalongkorn University Bookstore in Bangkok. They can also be ordered via the mail order form as well as through the internet. At present, the Centre's publication can be viewed in the e-book format before ordering at <http://www.rihed.seameo.org/publication.htm> or <http://elib.rihed.seameo.org/>.

The RIHED's website provides information and activities of the centre and offers e-library services specialising in higher education. The list of higher education institutions in the Southeast Asian Region is also provided on the website. Our next step is to provide a database of higher education expertise in Southeast Asian region.

INCREASED LINKAGES WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

During the FY2008/2009, SEAMEO RIHED continued to maintain strong linkages with national, regional, and international organisations through cooperation, collaboration, and networking in various programmes and activities.

At the national level, the Centre cooperated/collaborated with one Lao university, namely Suphanouvong University; two independent government agencies, namely, Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), and The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organisation) Thailand; and four government agencies, including 1) The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR, 2) The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia), 3) The Ministry of Education, Myanmar, and 4) The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand.

At the international level, the Centre cooperated/collaborated with International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), Japan Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and International Training Research and Education Consortium (InTREC).



ONESQA

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

As SEAMEO RIHED begins its operation under the Third Five-Year Development Plan with the current centre's main strategy: "Partnership on Research Driven Activities", the future directions of the Centre's **Higher Education Research Programme** will be on these areas, including: 1) Harmonisation of Higher Education in Southeast Asia, 2) University Management and Governance, 3) Quality Assurance of Higher Education 4) Leadership Development Programme, and 5) ICT and Higher Education.

Higher Education Training and Development Programme is also one of the major functions of the centre. The training activities will be organised based on the knowledge gained from SEAMEO RIHED research activities. The training activities themselves will also serve as an exploring and learning instruments so that collected data and information can be use further in the Centre's research projects.

Higher Education Seminars and Conferences are activities to provide opportunities for higher education scholars, educators and administrators in the region to be able to meet, share and learn from their colleagues and from the experts in their respective areas.

For **Higher Education Information and Documentation**, SEAMEO RIHED takes as its crucial function to disseminate the research findings as well as proceedings from seminar and conferences to parties interested in higher education in the higher education institutions, Ministry/Department, and the general public through the Centre's Publications both in the printed form and electronic format.

All SEAMEO RIHED programmes will be carried out through close collaboration with partners at the local/regional/international level. Collaboration with private and not-for-profit organisations will also be sought through. Each programme will also have its focus on the areas that are the key concerns of Southeast Asian region.

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SECTION A GENERAL INFORMATION

Background on SEAMEO RIHED

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The Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development (RIHED) was conceived jointly by UNESCO and the International Association of Universities (IAU) in collaboration with the Ford Foundation.

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RIHED was officially founded in Singapore in July with 7 Member States, namely Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam.

1 9 8 5

RIHED became inactive due to some of the Member Countries being unable to participate fully in the Institute's activities. The decision was then reached by RIHED's Governing Board to reconstitute RIHED under the umbrella of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) and to have its temporary office in Thailand.

1 9 9 2

Attempts since 1985 to obtain approval from the Thai Government to host RIHED under the umbrella of SEAMEO became a reality on March 17th.

1 9 9 3

RIHED was instituted as the newest SEAMEO Centre. It is now known as the Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development but retains its original acronym of RIHED.

1 9 9 4

SEAMEO RIHED began its first-year operation of the Interim Period (1994-1997) on 1 July 1994.

1 9 9 5

On August 28th, the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, M.R. Kasem S. Kasemsri and Dr. Ashari bin Che Mat, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat. According to the MOU, the Thai government recognises the legal status of SEAMEO RIHED and agrees to provide the Centre seat at no cost to SEAMEO as well as underwrite the capital and operating costs of the Centre. SEAMEO, through SEAMEO Secretariat, undertakes the raising of Special Funds for the implementation of approved programmes and activities of the Centre.

1 9 9 6

FY 1996/1997 was the final year of RIHED's Interim Period. In turn, and with the legality of RIHED recognised, RIHED was prepared to embark on its first five-year plan beginning July 1997.

1 9 9 7

SEAMEO RIHED began its first-year operation of the regular five-year cycle of SEAMEO (1 July 1997-30 June 2002).

2 0 0 1

The Second Five-Year Development Plan was approved at the 9th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting from 24-25 August 2001 in Vientiane, Lao PDR and will cover the period from July 2002 until June 2007.

2 0 0 7

The Third Five-Year Development Plan was approved at the 14th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting from 28-29 September 2006 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and was approved at the 42nd SEAMEO Council Conference from 13-15 March 2007 in Bali, Indonesia. The development plan will cover the period from July 2007 until June 2012.

Organisation

SEAMEO RIHED is hosted by the Thai government, located at the fifth floor of the building of Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education in Bangkok, Thailand. The Centre is managed by a director. The policy-making body is the Governing Board (GB) which is composed of one representative from each SEAMEO Member Country, SEAMEO Secretariat Director and the SEAMEO RIHED Director, who serve as ex-officio members of the Board.

The Board is responsible for operation policies, strategic planning, annual evaluation, and review of the Centre's programmes and budget within the framework of its approved five-year development plan.

Objectives

- (1) To assist the Member States in fostering efficiency and effectiveness of higher education in their respective countries, with a focus on policy and planning processes, administrative and management systems through professional training and policy-oriented research, taking into consideration the special needs and pressing problems together with the cultural factors of individual Member States for integrated human resource development;
- (2) To serve as the regional centre and clearing-house for higher education information and documentation, promoting the exchange and dissemination of information and research findings on higher education planning and management, both within and outside the region;
- (3) To promote collaboration among Member States for establishing institutional linkages, and to assist them in strengthening institution building and development.

Its main activities, in line with other SEAMEO centres, will include training, research, and information dissemination with the special focus on fostering efficiency and effectiveness of higher education policy and planning, management, and administration in SEAMEO Member Countries.

Vision

A dynamic, self-reliant, strategic policy-research driven and internationally recognised regional centre for strengthening regional understanding and cooperation in higher education and development for a better quality of life.

Mission

SEAMEO RIHED's mission is to promote co-operation for the development of higher education in the region by assisting the Member Countries in fostering efficiency and effectiveness of higher education with a focus on policy and planning processes, administrative and management systems through policy-oriented research, and professional training, serving as the regional centre and clearing house for higher education information and documentation, and promoting collaboration among the Members for establishing institutional linkages. The Centre carries out its mission by undertaking research, professional training and information dissemination focusing on higher education policy planning and management, and administration in SEAMEO Member countries.

Strategy

Partnership on research-driven activities is our strategy. All SEAMEO RIHED programmes will be carried out by seeking collaboration with partners at the local/regional/international level. Collaboration with private and not-for-profit organisations will also be sought through. Each programme will have its focus on the areas that are the main concerns of Southeast Asian region.

SECTION B

KEY RESULT AREAS

INCREASED PROGRAMME QUALITY AND RELEVANCE

1) TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

- 1.1) The 4th Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia
- 1.2) The Third SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK'
- 1.3) The Second SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to United States of America: 'University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators'
- 1.4) Workshop on the Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia

2) RESEARCH PROJECT

- 2.1) Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher education Common Space in Southeast Asia

3) CLEARING HOUSE AND PUBLICATIONS

- 3.1) The Report of the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK
- 3.2) The Conference Proceeding 'Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia
- 3.3) SEAMEO RIHED's Bulletin
- 3.4) SEAMEO RIHED's e-Library and Website

4) SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

- 4.1) The First ASEAN Quality Assurance Roundtable Meeting
- 4.2) The Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries
- 4.3) The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating higher education Common Space in Southeast Asia
- 4.4) Seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher education reforms in the United Kingdom (UK): Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK'
- 4.5) The Third Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region
- 4.6) Annual Roundtable Meeting of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) 2009

1) TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1.1) The 4th Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia

Date and Venue:

21-25 July 2008, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Organisers:

The Ministry of Education, Myanmar; International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP); UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO RIHED



IIEP, in collaboration with RIHED, initiated a research programme with the main objective to study about higher education restructuring processes and their effects, both from a macro and an institutional point of view. These studies were carried out by national teams and tried to focus on the implementation of the restructuring process, the difficulties encountered, and the effects of the restructuring process on university management.

After completion of the studies, a policy forum to share the findings was organised in Hue University in 2004. As a follow-up to the Policy Forum, a workshop on the same theme was organised in Manila in 2005 to introduce the university administrators to the process of higher education restructuring within the region. Subsequent workshops were held in Lao PDR in 2006 and Cambodia in 2007. IIEP, SEAMEO RIHED and UNESCO Bangkok played the facilitating role in all these activities.

The 4th IIEP Workshop was held in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during 21-25 July 2008, and co-organised by the Ministry of Education, Myanmar; International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP); UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO RIHED. The workshop was attended by 31 participants from SEAMEO Member Countries. The workshop addressed such issues as Globalisation and cross-border higher education, Institutional restructuring in higher education, higher education indicators, quality assurance in higher education, resource mobilisation strategies and financial and staff management practices, student mobility as well as national systems of higher education and private universities. The 5th workshop was held during the last week of July 2009 in Malaysia.



1.2) The 3rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK'

Date and Venue:

18-29 October 2008, the United Kingdom

Organisers:

The International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC) and SEAMEO RIHED



With the cooperation from the International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC), SEAMEO RIHED has been conducting educational programmes to the United Kingdom for senior university administrators from Thai and other Southeast Asian countries since 2005. In each annual programme, the participants will be offered the opportunity to learn more about such issues as university governance, management styles, financial consideration as well as new concerns in the British higher education context.

In 2008, SEAMEO RIHED worked very closely with InTREC to organise the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities, which was held during 18-26 October 2008. The programme was attended by 39 senior and middle-ranking administrators across the country. This year's programme focused on the issue of 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK.' The programme included detailed briefings from policy makers responsible for UK higher education and QA development and a series of lectures from senior university administrators from leading universities in the UK.

In the 3rd Study Visit to UK, participants visited the QA offices in 1) University of Oxford, 2) University of Cambridge, 3) King's College London, 4) University of Westminster, 5) University of Gloucestershire and also governmental agencies responsible for QA, including 6) the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS), 7) the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) and 8) Universities UK.

The outputs of the event are '**The Seminar on Quality Assurance and Recent Trends on higher education Reforms in the United Kingdom: Experiences from the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom**', which was organised on 13 February 2009 with the support of the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand; and also the report of the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom, which can be accessed via www.rihed.seameo.org/UK2008.

1.3) The 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the United States of America: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators

Date and Venue:

17-25 April 2009, San Diego and Los Angeles, USA

Organisers:

The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB) and SEAMEO RIHED

In cooperation with the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), SEAMEO RIHED had the opportunity to bring chairmen, vice chairmen, members of university council, presidents and senior university administrators from Thailand to visit higher education institutions in the US and also to attend the 2009 AGB's National Conference on Trusteeship in San Diego. The key objective of the programme is to provide the opportunity for senior university administrators and members of university councils to participate in professional development activities to improve their insights and knowledge on recent and current development of US University Governance.



During 17-25 April 2009, thirty-one (31) participants joined the programme, including three former Ministers: The former Minister of Education -- Professor Dr. Wichit Srisa-an, Chairman of Suranaree University of Technology Council, Walailak University Council and Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University Council; The former Minister of University Affairs and former Minister of Foreign Affairs -- Mr. Prachuab Chaiyasan, Chairman of Ramkhamhaeng University Council; and The former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Professor Dr. Krasae Chanawongse, Chairman of Princess Naradhiwas University Council. And also two chairmen of Nakhon Pathom Rajabhat University Council and Sripatum University Council, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noranit Setabutr and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Kanchit Malaivongs also participated in the programme. The participants visited 5 higher education institutions in San Diego and Los Angeles. The list of institutional visits was: 1) University of San Diego, 2) University of California, San Diego, 3) California State University, Los Angeles, 4) University of Southern California, and 5) Claremont Colleges.

The main output of the event is the report of the 2nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the USA: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators which will be completed in August 2009. Another follow-up event is an open seminar on University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators in Thailand: Experience from the 2nd Educational Visit to the USA which will be held in October 2009. The aim of the open seminar is to disseminate the information to and share the knowledge about the US university governance and university council with the public. Distinguished participants from the educational trip will also join the panel of speakers.

1.4) Workshop on the Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia

Date and Venue:

30 June 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Organisers:

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ASIA SEED INSTITUTE and SEAMEO RIHED

On 30 June 2009, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ASIA SEED INSTITUTE and SEAMEO RIHED joined force to organise the 'Workshop on The Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labour Market in East Asia' in Bangkok, Thailand. The objective of the workshop was to get inputs and comments from the delegates from Australia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Korea, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam and Japan for the further study on the impact of cross border higher education and the development of regional and national higher education policy.

The objective of the research study is to examine the function of higher education sectors in the virtual integration of labor markets in Asia. Firstly, it focuses on higher education exchange programs in order to understand the prevailing situation. Next, to analyse these exchange programs' performances in the labor market and also to learn the example of Malaysia in promoting international higher education exchanges and equivalent programs. This project explores also effective approaches to knowledge creation and human resource development.



Twenty six delegations helped comment on the draft questionnaires, selection methods of sample universities and internationally collaborated degree programs as well as the implementation methods and research schedules. More information of the research project and the progress can be found in <http://jica-ri.jica.go.jp/research/aid-strategy/emerging-aid-agenda/index.html>.

2.1) Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

Date and Venue:

May-November 2008, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam

Organisers:

The Japan Foundation, the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia) and SEAMEO RIHED



In 2008, the book on ***The Harmonisation of Higher Education: Lessons Learned from the Bologna Process*** was the result of the preliminary study based on the study on public documents, official papers and inputs from conference and workshop materials which were previously presented in several international conferences and workshops. The book was set to provide the background of the harmonisation initiatives and the step from which to launch the project on harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia.

Following the publication of the book, SEAMEO RIHED conducted a 7-month project on the Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia. The project was mainly funded by the Japan Foundation and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia). It was aimed to set off the first stage, that is, to raise awareness among key stakeholders on the process of higher education harmonisation. The project was consisted of three main activities: 1) **pre-conference workshops** (June-August 2008) which were convened by five country coordinators from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam to collect the inputs and ideas on the issue of higher education harmonisation in Southeast Asia from invited key stakeholders in their respective countries through the use of group discussions and survey questionnaires prepared by SEAMEO RIHED; 2) **Country report** (August-September 2008): the country coordinators collected important data from the workshop and wrote country reports; 3) **International Conference** (November 2008) was the concluding part of the project. The country coordinators and experts from Japan, Australia, U.K. and New Zealand presented their country reports and country positions on the process of the harmonisation in higher education in the region.

The important findings and results from the key Southeast Asian coordinators cover the issues of 1) The Ideal form of Higher education Area; 2) Priority Areas for Guideline Development; 3) The Role of the Key Players; 4) The Role of International Organisations; 5) Key Benefits; and 6) Future Scenarios. All papers were compiled in 'The Conference Proceeding: Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia and was published by SEAMEO RIHED in February 2009.

3. CLEARING HOUSE AND PUBLICATIONS

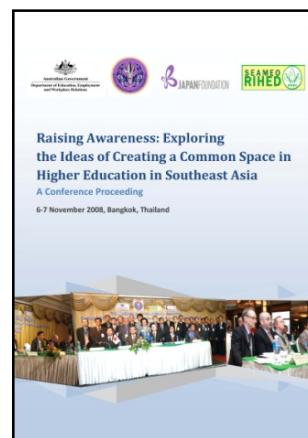


3.1) The Report of the 3rd Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK

In this report, SEAMEO RIHED combined notes and presentations and also transcribed those lectures delivered by key speakers during each institutional visit, which was held during 18-26 October 2008. All lectures and briefings comprised mainly of the development of quality assurance in the UK as well as techniques, best practice and the process of quality assurance undertaken by Higher Education Institutions. The compilation is useful to those who are dealing with quality assurance issues as well as those who are interested in the development and techniques of quality enhancement.

3.2) The Conference Proceeding 'Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

The conference proceeding combines the final reports on the possibility of developing a 'structured framework for future establishment of a 'common space' in Southeast Asia (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) and the papers presented by representatives from advanced higher education systems in Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand into a single volume. The compilation reflected the experiences and viewpoints on the process of harmonisation of higher education in the speakers' respective countries. The papers were presented in The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia, held in November 2008. The publication was the concluding part of the project on The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia.



3.3) SEAMEO RIHED's Bulletin

The Bulletin is published tri-annually, ready for distribution in January, May and September. It aims at promoting SEAMEO RIHED and its activities, and to provide scholars and administrators with current information on higher education in the region.



3.4) SEAMEO RIHED's e-Library and Website

The RIHED's Website provides information and activities of the centre and the information regarding the centre's publications, such as studies, reports and conference/ seminar/ workshop proceedings in e-format. The list of higher education institutions in Southeast Asian Region, and the Electronic Library Services specialising in higher education could also be accessed through the website. The SEAMEO RIHED website can be accessed via the following official link: www.rihed.seameo.org.



4. SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

4.1) The First ASEAN Quality Assurance Roundtable Meeting

Date and Venue: 6-8 July 2008, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Organisers:

The Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) and SEAMEO RIHED



SEAMEO RIHED, in close cooperation with the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), co-organised the 1st ASEAN Quality Roundtable Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia during 6-8 July 2008. The 1st ASEAN Quality Roundtable Meeting was participated by representatives from leading QA agencies in Southeast Asia, including: Brunei Darussalam National Accreditation Council (BDNAC); Universiti Brunei Darussalam; Accreditation Committee of Cambodia (ACC); Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (Cambodia); National Accreditation Agency for Higher Education (BAN-PT), Indonesia; Ministry of Education (Lao PDR); Mandalay University (Myanmar); Malaysian Qualifications Agency; Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Inc. (AACUP); Philippine

Accrediting Association of Schools, Colleges and Universities (PAASCU); Commission on Higher Education (Philippines); Ministry of Education, Singapore; Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), Thailand; Bureau of Standards and Evaluation, Commission on Higher Education, Thailand; General Department of Education Testing and Accreditation, Ministry of Education and Training (GDETA-MOET), Vietnam; and SEAMEO RIHED.

The Meeting has resulted in the agreement that recognises the crucial role of quality assurance in promoting the harmonisation process and encourages active movements towards the development of quality assurance collaboration and sharing. The 'Kuala Lumpur Declaration' adopted by the participants contends that:

- a) the network of quality assurance agencies among Southeast Asian Countries, known as ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) will be established;
- b) the purposes of the AQAN are to share best practices of quality assurance; to develop an ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework; to collaborate on capacity building; and to facilitate recognition of qualifications and cross-border mobility;
- c) the machinery to carry out the above purposes includes the establishment of an annual Roundtable Meeting; a Standing Committee; and a temporary Secretariat which will be established in the MQA; and
- d) the network will be open for participation to all QA agencies in the region.

4.2) The Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries

Date and Venue:

14 October 2008, Suphanouvong University, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR

Organisers:

SEAMEO RIHED with the kind support from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR and Suphanouvong University

In order to share and update relevant information on university governance in Southeast Asian region, SEAMEO RIHED, with the kind support from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR and Suphanouvong University convened the Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries on 14 October 2008 at Suphanouvong University, Luang Prabang, Lao PDR.



SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board members and high-level administrators in higher education from 10 SEAMEO member countries -- Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam – attended the event as key speakers and presented the updates on university governance in their respective countries.



In addition to the presentation on the background of higher education system in 10 countries; current status of higher education governance in higher education institutions in each country, problems and issues of university governance; and the future direction and development of higher education governance in Southeast Asia were also highlighted.

More than 100 university administrators and scholars from Thailand and Lao PDR attended the event. The Regional Seminar was held back-to-back with the 16th SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting. Papers and Presentations on The Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries can be accessed through <http://mail.rihed.seameo.org/ugseminar>.

4.3) The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

Date and Venue:

6-7 November 2008, Bangkok, Thailand

Organisers:

SEAMEO RIHED with the funding support from the Japan Foundation and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Australia

Following the endorsement of the proposal on ‘A Structured Framework for Regional Integration of Higher Education in Southeast Asia: The Road towards a Common Space’ by the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference in March 2008, SEAMEO RIHED successfully secured the funding from the Japan Foundation to set off the first stage of the 5 related steps, that is to raise awareness among key stakeholders in Southeast Asia region on the importance of the process of higher education harmonization.



The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia was an activity under the project to promote the process of harmonisation of higher education in the region. It was consisted of the following sub- activities: 1) The Pre-Conference Workshops in Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; 2) The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia in Bangkok, Thailand; and 3) The proceeding of the international conference.

The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia was held in Bangkok, Thailand during 6-7 November 2008 to disseminate the result of the final reports on the possibility of developing a ‘structured framework for future establishment of a ‘common space’ in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam). In this conference, representatives from advanced higher education systems, such as Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand were invited to present their experiences and viewpoints on the process of harmonisation of higher education in their respective countries.

The number of participants attending the Conference was about 180 people including high-ranking officials responsible for higher education, scholars and key stakeholders from Southeast Asian Countries. SEAMEO RIHED also published the conference proceeding and distribute the copies to key stakeholders in SEAMEO member countries in February 2009.

4.4) The 3rd Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region

Date and Venue:

22-23 January 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Organisers:

Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED

The 3rd Meeting of Director General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region was held during 22-23 January 2009, at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. The meeting was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and attended by the Directors General and Secretaries General as well as country representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Thailand. The Meeting was also attended by the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, senior staff from the Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, the Commission on Higher Education (Thailand), and the Director of SEAMEO RIHED.



The Meeting was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and was held to provide a venue where key policy makers could have an extensive discussion to outline the detailed roadmap for the future collaboration and the development of mechanism leading to the establishment of the process of harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia. In accordance with SEAMEO RIHED's proposal on 5-related steps towards the establishment of the harmonisation process and the proposed 4 areas of collaborations, the Meeting also agreed that the following activities should be undertaken and the involvement of various organisations should be encouraged: 1) **Credit Transfer System**; 2) **Quality Assurance Framework and Qualification Framework**; 3) **Diploma Supplement**; 4) **Research Clusters**; 5) **Leadership Development Programme** and 6) **E-learning and Mobile Learning Programme**.

4.5) Seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the United Kingdom (UK): Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK'

Date and Venue: 13 February 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

Organisers:

Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED

Following the '3rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Educational Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities during, which was held during 18-26 October 2008, SEAMEO RIHED, with the support from Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, conducted a follow-up seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK: Experienced from the 3rd Study Visit to the UK' on 13 February 2009 at the Commission on higher Education Building, Bangkok, Thailand. The seminar was held to commemorate SEAMEO RIHED's 16th founding anniversary.



The event was attended by almost 120 participants who are interested on the issue of quality education and quality assurance development in Thailand. Most of the participants were from higher education institutions and government agencies responsible for higher education. Honorary speakers were distinguished academics and university administrators who joined the seminar to deliver their thoughts and lessons learned from the educational trip. The discussion topics included:

- a) 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK for Thai Higher Education Development'
- b) 'Roles of Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education and the Quality Assurance of Universities in UK: Experienced for Thai Higher Education Institutions'
- c) 'Internal Quality Assurance of UK Universities: Experienced for Thai Higher Education Institutions': Respective from Public Universities and Private Universities

In the seminar, SEAMEO RIHED disseminated the 'Report of the 3rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK'. The report contains lecture notes from the visits to universities in the UK and QA-relating agencies. The report can be obtained through <http://www.rihed.seameo.org/uktrip/qareport.pdf>.

4.6) Annual Roundtable Meeting of The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) 2009

Date and Venue:

13 February 2009, Bangkok, Thailand

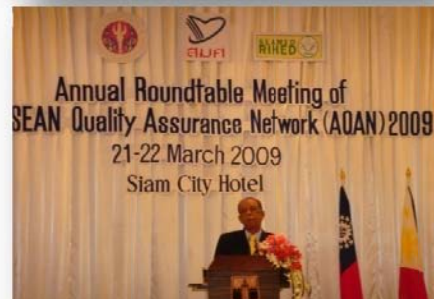
Organisers:

The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), SEAMEO RIHED

Following the 1st AQAN Roundtable Meeting in Kuala Lumpur in 2008, the Meeting agreed that the AQAN Roundtable will be held annually with specific theme related to quality assurance of higher education. In the year 2009, with the kind cooperation of the Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand, and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA), SEAMEO RIHED and the Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) organised the 2009 Annual Roundtable Meeting of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) on 20-22 March 2009 at the Siam City Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand.

The theme of the 2nd Meeting was revolved around the issue of Assessors: Current Practices and the Next Steps. During the event, each country presented their country's experiences with regards to quality assurance assessors and auditors. The Roundtable agreed that assessors are crucial to quality assurance work and more attention must be given to assessment and the role of assessors. The Country Reports also showed much similar practice with regards to assessor, such as in terms of methods of and sources for recruitment, criteria for selection, training and training needs and assessment processes, as well as code of ethics for assessors.

The Bangkok Roundtable also elected Dato' Dr. Syed Ahmad Hussein, Chief Executive Officer of Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA) as the first AQAN President. It was also agreed that the MQA acts as the Secretariat for the AQAN.



ENHANCED QUALITY AND EFFICIENCY OF THE CENTRE'S MANAGEMENT

Since the inception of the Centre, the number of the Centre's full - time staff are relatively small. At present, the Centre employs only 2 professional and 9 local staff. Although SEAMEO RIHED continues to be a small and flat organisation, it has always put the efforts to promote professional development of its staff as it will help increase the quality and efficiency of the Centre's management. The Centre's staff development programmes in FY 2008/2009 were the following:

- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated in **The Asia-Pacific Sub Regional Preparatory Conference for the 2009 World Conference on Higher Education: "Facing Global and Local Challenges: the New Dynamics for Higher Education"** organised by UNESCO Bangkok in collaboration with Government of Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China. The organisers also invited Prof. Supachai to give a presentation on "ASEAN Higher Education Area" in the conference. The event held during 24-26 September 2008 at Macao SAR, PR China.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a panelist in a panel discussion: "Setting the Agenda for Asia-Europe Higher Education Cooperation" in **"The First ASEM Rectors' Conference: Asia-Europe Higher Education Leadership Dialogue: Between Tradition and Reform: Universities in Asia and Europe at the Crossroads"** organised by The Asia-Europe Foundation (ASEF), the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and the European University Association (EUA), with the German Rectors' Conference (HRK) and the Freie Universitat Berlin during 27-29 October 2008 in Berlin, German.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **The 22nd Regular Annual National Conference of the Accrediting Agency for Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP)** during 16-17 February 2009 at Manila, Philippines.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **"Sub-regional Preparatory Conference on Higher Education for South, South-West and Central Asia"** organised by Ministry of Resource Development, Government of India and the National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA), New Delhi, in collaboration with UNESCO during 25-26 February 2009 at New Delhi, India.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a keynote speaker of **the UMAP Vice President Forum 2009: an International Conference entitled "Some changes of Higher education in Asia and the Pacific: The Focus on Harmonisation and Networking"** and the coordinator of the panel session on Harmonisation and Networking on March 7-8, 2009, in Hiroshima, Japan.

- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended as a speaker in **“The 2nd DIES International Deans’ Course (Southeast Asia), Part III”** organised by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors’ Conference (HRK), the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation, the Center for Higher Education Development and the University of Applied Sciences Osnabruck during 15-21 March 2009 at Yogyakarta, Indonesia.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, Director; Mrs. Thanthakorn Phuangsawat, Programme Officer; and Mrs. Wachareeporn Nilratt, Programme Officer participated in the 2009 AGB National Conference on Trusteeship: The Changing Landscape of Higher Education during 19-21 April 2009 at San Diego, The United States of America.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated in **“The Workshop on Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications in the Asia-Pacific Region”** organised by UNESCO Bangkok in collaboration with the Australian and Philippine governments. The organizers also invited him to give a presentation on “Regional Awareness and Co-operation: Moving toward Harmonisation of a Common Space in Higher Education in Southeast Asia” in the conference. The event held during 6-7 May 2009 at Manila, Philippines.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended in **“The 2nd ASEM Ministerial Meeting on Education (ASEMME2)”** organised by Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam and the ASIA-EUROPE MEETING during 14-15 May 2009 at Hanoi, Vietnam.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director participated as a resource person for the fifth discussion theme of the course, “Enhancing and Sustaining Standards and Assessment in Higher Education in Agriculture” in **an executives forum for its “Leadership Excellence in the Academe Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA)”** on 20 May 2009 at Los Banos, Laguna, Philippines. The event organised by SEAMEO SEARCA.
- Prof. Dr. Supachai Yavaprabhas, SEAMEO RIHED Director attended **“The 2nd Annual National Higher Education Conference 2009: Developing Higher Education as a Key Catalyst to Malaysia’s Competitiveness”** organised by Asia Executive Programs (AEP), and also participated as a one of speakers in The session 3: Constructing ‘Win-Win’ Partnerships in the Higher Education Sector: Identifying Opportunities for Collaboration in Southeast Asia, with Internationally Education Partners and between Public and Private Universities during 25-26 June 2009 at Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

INCREASED FINANCIAL VIABILITY THROUGH INCREASED REVENUES AND COST CONTROL

Originally, the main funding source for the Centre's programmes and activities was the interest paid from the SEAMEO RIHED's Endowment Fund. In recent years, the interest rates have been in dramatic decrease, which resulted in the diminishing of operating funds. The Royal Thai Government, who has always supported the Centre by providing the Centre's seat at no cost to SEAMEO and underwritten the capital and operating costs of the Centre, has realised the Centre's recent financial hardship and has allotted additional budget to help alleviate some of the Centre's financial constraints. In addition, SEAMEO Secretariat has allocated some special funds to support the Centre's operations. SEAMEO RIHED gratefully acknowledges the support of the Royal Thai Government and SEAMEO Secretariat.

For its part, SEAMEO RIHED has tried to alleviate financial constraints by increasing the number of its partnerships and co-operative efforts so that it can maintain the scope and effectiveness of its programmes and activities. During FY 2008/2009, SEAMEO RIHED has cooperated several institutions and organisations, including a university in Lao PDR, namely Suphanouvang University; seven international, private and governmental agencies, namely, 1) International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), 2) Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), 3) Japan Foundation, 4) Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 5) International Training Research and Education Consortium (InTREC), 6) Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA), and 7) The Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (Public Organisation) Thailand; and four national government agencies, namely, 1) The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education , Lao PDR, 2) The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (Australia), 3) The Ministry of Education, Myanmar, 4) The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand. Apart from co-hosting, co-organised or sponsored activities with these organisations, SEAMEO RIHED has also created income generating programmes through study visit activities, research projects and publication to help support the running costs of the Centre.

INCREASED MARKET ACCESS TO SEAMEO RIHED'S PROGRAMMES WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE SOUTHEAST ASIA

SEAMEO RIHED continues to increase market access to its programmes by using a wide variety of media (poster, rollup board, display exhibition, newspaper, radio, etc.) along with its website and mailing lists. The target groups include the Centre's partner agencies, higher education institutions, and the general public.

The SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin, published 3 times a year and can be accessed through the Centre's website, summarises activities and programmes every 4 months and updates current status of higher education institutions in the region.

The Centre's publications including research studies and conference/seminar/workshop reports and proceedings are on sale at Chulalongkorn University Bookstore in Bangkok. They can also be ordered via the mail order form as well as through the internet. At present, the Centre's publication can be viewed in the e-book format before ordering at <http://www.rihed.seameo.org/publication.htm> or <http://elib.rihed.seameo.org/>.

The RIHED's website provides information and activities of the centre and offers e-library services specialising in higher education. The list of higher education institutions in the Southeast Asian Region is also provided on the website. Our next step is to provide a database of higher education expertise in Southeast Asian region.

STRENGTHENING AND EXPANDING LINKAGES AND COOPERATION WITH NATIONAL, REGIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

In the last fiscal year, SEAMEO RIHED collaborated with various agencies, universities, and Ministries of Education in SEAMEO Member Countries to create strong partnership and networks for the purpose of facilitating programmes in higher education across the region. The specific programmes carried out and collaborating agencies are listed below.

AGENCIES	PROGRAMMES
The Ministry of Education, Myanmar; International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP); and UNESCO Bangkok	The 4 th Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia
The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), ASIA SEED INSTITUTE	Workshop on the Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia
The Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)	The 2 nd SEAMEO RIHED-AGB Educational Visit to the United States of America: University Governance for Members of University Council and University Administrators
The International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC)	The 3 rd SEAMEO RIHED-InTREC Study Visit to the United Kingdom (UK) for Senior Staff from Thai and Southeast Asian Universities: 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the UK'
The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR and Suphanouong University	The Regional Seminar on University Governance in Southeast Asian Countries
The Japan Foundation and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR), Australia	The International Conference on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia
The Malaysian Qualifications Agency (MQA)	The First ASEAN Quality Assurance Roundtable Meeting

AGENCIES	PROGRAMMES
The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand	The 3 rd Meeting of Director General/ Secretary General/ Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region
The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand	Seminar on 'Quality Assurance and Recent Trends in Higher Education Reforms in the United Kingdom (UK): Experienced from the 3 rd Study Visit to the UK'
The Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand and the Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA)	Annual Roundtable Meeting of The ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) 2009



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