









SEAMEO RIHED | ANNUAL REPORT 2013-2014

Published 2014 by

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Message from the Acting Interim Director

Today, the greatest strengths of SEAMEO RIHED—our comprehensive approach to higher education, our activities, our promotion of collaboration and dialogue—are more relevant than ever. SEAMEO RIHED has the potential to address the region's diversity and help countries navigate a rapidly changing higher education landscape. Yet, in order to ensure our effectiveness, our activities and reach must evolve with the region and adapt to the transformations that lie ahead.

This report provides a look into activities spanning the 2013-2014 fiscal year that have had an impact on the region's higher education systems. The report has been organized according to our objectives to empower higher education institutions, harmonize higher education systems, cultivate globalized human resources, advance knowledge frontiers in higher education system management and it includes our promotion of policy dialogue as well.

Of note in 2013-2014 was our student mobility programme—AIMS—which continues to receive widespread recognition as a key platform for regional student mobility, providing students with an international and intercultural experience and supporting enhanced collaboration among the region's universities. As this report is being prepared, approximately 700 students have so far participated in an exchange abroad at one of 60 participating universities in 7 countries.

During the year, we also developed several key collaborations to empower universities, including the Study Visit to China with the ASEAN-China Centre and the introduction of Leadership Development Workshops that brought together partners in the United States, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam. Equally, we are glad to report that our continued regional and interregional collaboration in Quality Assurance and soon our common credit transfer framework for Asia—ACTFA—will help to strengthen the harmonization of higher education in the region.

No less important has been our role in policy dialogue and the promotion of intergovernmentally agreed priorities for the region, including the enhacement of student mobility, leadership development, E-Learning and Mobile Learning and ASEAN Research Clusters.

As the Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development, we will continue to promote these activities and strengthen our partnerships and collaboration to ensure that we remain, now and into the future, your partner in higher education.

Sincerely,

Ms. Thanthakorn Phuangsawat Acting Interim Director, SEAMEO RIHED

About SEAMEO RIHED

Our Mission

SEAMEO RIHED is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development. Our mission is to foster the efficiency, effectiveness and harmonization of higher education in Southeast Asia through system research, empowerment and the development of mechanisms to facilitate sharing and collaboration in higher education.

Our History

Originally founded as the Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development in Singapore in 1959, the Regional Institute, or RIHED, was reorganized in 1993 as a Regional Centre of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and reestablished in Bangkok, Thailand. SEAMEO RIHED has retained its original acronym and currently plays a crucial role in the capacity building of SEAMEO member countries in the field of higher education, responding to a variety of needs with activities that support the policy, planning, administration and management of higher education. These activities are guided by five year development plans and under the current plan (2012-2017), comprise three key components, as indicated to the right, including programmes designed to serve 5 objective areas, higher education policy dialogue and the development of a regional higher education information gateway.

Our Activities

Programmes serving 5 objective areas

- Empowering Higher Education Institutions
- Developing Harmonization Mechanisms
- Cultivating Globalized Human Resources
- Advancing Knowledge Frontiers in Higher **Education System Management**
- Promoting University Social Responsibility and Sustainable Development

Higher Education Policy Dialogue

- Meeting of Directors General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia
- Regional Seminar organized back-to-back with the SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting

Regional Higher Education Information Gateway

• Electronic Database of higher education information

Regional Priorities

- Enhancing Student Mobility
- Leadership Development
- E-Learning and Mobile Learning
- ASEAN Research Clusters

2013-2014 Overview

Our Activities

23-26 July 2013	IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Luan Prabang, Lao PDR
27 September 2013	SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting at the National Institute of Education, Singapore
28 September 2013	Regional Seminar on Teacher Education at the National Institute of Education, Singapore
8 October 2013	AQAFHE Task Force Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand
9-11 October 2013	ASEAN QA Stakeholder Conference in Bangkok, Thailand
17 October 2013	AQAN Roundtable Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
21-23 November 2013	6 th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme in Chiang Rai, Thailand
1-7 December 2013	SEAMEO RIHED-ACC Study Visit on University-Industry Collaboration to Beijing, Tianjin and Shenyang, People's Republic of China
3-5 February 2014	MEXT Expert Dispatch Programme at SEAMEO RIHED
1 April 2014	ASEAN QA Steering Committee Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
8-9 May 2014	7 th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme in Manila, Philippines
27-28 May 2014	8 th Meeting of Directors General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
2-3 June 2014	Southeast Asian University Leadership Development Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Events Attended

6-17 September 2013	6 th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Seminar on China-ASEAN Education Integration, Qualification Recognition and Quality Assurance in Guiyang, China
30 September 2013	1st Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance in Higher Education among ASEAN +3 Countries in Tokyo, Japan
1 October 2013	ASEAN+3 Higher Education Quality Assurance Forum in Tokyo, Japan
2 October 2013	NIAD-UE-SEAMEO RIHED In-House Workshop on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance in Tokyo, Japan
10-13 November 2013	6 th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week Follow-up Session Workshop on Promoting Student Mobility between China and Southeast Asia in Guilin, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China
12-14 November, 2013	Seminar on Global Strategy for East Asian Universities in Guangzhou, China
13 December 2013	International Seminar on Student Mobility at Korea University, Republic of Korea
21 February 2014	International Symposium: New Directions in Higher Education for the Development of Global Human Resources at the University of Tsukuba, Japan
6 March 2014	Symposium on Core-Human Resource Education Program for Economic Development, Trust-building, and Peace in Asia at Hiroshima University, Japan
24-25 June 2014	Expert Meeting Preparation for the 2 nd Asean +3 Working Group on Student Mobility and Quality Assurance of Higher Education in Jakarta, Indonesia
26 June 2014	ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) Meeting on the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework in Higher Education (AQAFHE) in Jakarta, Indonesia

The Annual Report 2013-2014

As the Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development, SEAMEO RIHED developed activities in the 2013-2014 fiscal year that reinforced our objectives to empower higher education institutions, develop harmonization mechanisms, cultivate globalized human resources and advance the frontiers of knowledge in higher education system management. In addition, we continued to promote policy dialogue and developed new collaborations with SEAMEO Member Countries and other organizations. Taken together, these achievements have helped to consolidate our position as the region's partner in higher education.



The IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher **Education**

23-26 July 2013 Luan Prabang Lao PDR

SEAMEO RIHED and the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP) organize an annual regional workshop that introduces university administrators in Southeast Asia to the process and impact of higher education restructuring.

In collaboration with the UNESCO Bangkok Office, the Regional Bureau for Education, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR, and Souphanouvong University, the IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education was organized in Luang Prabang on 23-26 July 2013.

The workshop focused on higher education restructuring in Lao PDR as well as institutional restructuring across Southeast Asia and explored current issues in higher education, including best practices in priority areas such as globalization and cross-border education, higher education indicators, quality assurance, resource mobilization strategies and staff management.

The IIEP-SEAMEO RIHED workshop was attended by 11 participants from Lao PDR as well 14 other participants from SEAMEO member countries.



The SEAMEO RIHED-ACC Study **Visit to China on University-Industry** Collaboration

1-7 December 2013 Beijing, Tianjin and Shenyang People's Republic of China

SEAMEO RIHED and the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) have been exploring opportunities for collaboration since 2012 in order to foster regional cooperation in higher education and promote greater interaction among Chinese and Southeast Asian universities.

One of the new activities implemented in 2013-2014 was the SEAMEO RIHED-ACC Study Visit to China which brought university executives from Southeast Asia to Beijing, Tianiin and Shenyang to gain first-hand insight into research and development at leading Chinese Universities and Science Parks.

The visit included stops at the Ministry of Education, China, Tsinghua University and TusPark, Beijing Language and Cultural University, Tianjin University, the Commission of Science and Technology, Binhai New Area, Northeastern University and Neusoft. In total, 22 participants from 16 higher education institutions representing Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam participated in the study visit. Following the success of the first visit, SEAMEO RIHED and ACC will organize the second Study Visit to China in November 2014.



Southeast Asian University Leadership Development Workshops

2-3 June 2014 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia

9-10 June 2014 Universiti Brunei Darussalam Brunei Darussalam

SEAMEO RIHED, in partnership with the American Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB), the Malaysian Higher Education Leadership Academy (AKEPT) and the Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), organized the first Southeast Asian University Leadership Development Workshops in 2014.

The workshop was held in Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam and was designed to enhance the skills, knowledge and experience of the region's university executives, council members and administrators in order to better prepare them to meet future higher education challenges and guide their institutions through the financial, technological and pedagogical transformations anticipated in the years ahead.

The workshop in Malaysia was attended by over 40 university executives and leaders representing 4 countries in the region and the workshop in Brunei Darussalam counted over 25 participants from 3 countries who were exposed to innovative approaches to lead institutional improvements in academic standing, national and international reputations and rankings and the generation of additional streams of revenue.

Given the success of the workshop, all partners are keen to discuss the possibility of turning the workshop into an annual event with local content integrated into the programme in the coming year.





Quality Assurance

9-11 October 2013 Bangkok Thailand 1 April 2014 Kuala Lumpur Malaysia 8 October 2013 Bangkok Thailand 17 October 2013 Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

From 2011-2013, the ASEAN QA Project built capacity of internal and external quality assurance officers through training exercises, conferences and visits to universities throughout the region. With the culmination of training in 2013, SEAMEO RIHED organized a Stakeholder Conference to review the impact of the ASEAN QA Project on 9-11 October. A total of 94 participants attended the conference, including internal and external quality assurance officers who used the opportunity to collaborate and discuss learning outcomes of the Project. With positive feedback from the participants, the ASEAN QA Steering Committee later met in Kuala Lumpur on 1 April 2014 and all partners agreed to continue the Project through a second phase slotted to run from 2014-2016 and intended to further strengthen capacity in internal quality assurance with a multi-part

training course for QA Officers from selected Southeast Asian universities. SEAMEO RIHED also continued its support of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework in Higher Education (AQAFHE) by participating in the AQAFHE Task Force Workshop on 8 October 2013 in Bangkok in order to finalize the AQAFHE draft and attending the 2013 AQAN Roundtable Meeting on 17 October 2014 at Ton Duc Thang University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to review and approve the amended AQAFHE draft based on comments from the Meeting.

The approved draft includes four sets of interrelated principles, including: 1) the establishment of external quality assurance agencies, 2) external quality assurance processes, 3) institutional quality assurance, and 4) national qualifications frameworks.





The ASEAN International Mobility for Students Programme

22-23 November 2013 Chiang Rai Thailand 8-9 May 2014 Manila Philippines

AIMS—the ASEAN International Mobility for Students Programme—currently offers a wide range of exchange opportunities to undergraduate students in 7 fields of study (Hospitality and Tourism, Agriculture, Language and Culture, International Business, Food Science and Technology, Engineering and Economics) at 60 universities in 7 countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Brunei Darussalam, Philippines and Japan). So far, since the start of the Programme in 2010, approximately 700 students from throughout the region have enhanced their education abroad and made a lasting contribution to regional understanding, cooperation and friendship.

The AIMS Programme has also been widely recognized as a key platform for regional student mobility, benefitting participating universities and higher education systems and preparing

students for a career and life in an increasingly interconnected world.

In 2013–2014, two Review Meetings were held in Thailand and the Philippines to promote multilateral collaboration among participating countries and universities and strengthen the networks and partnerships crucial to the success and future of the Programme.

From 22-23 November 2013, the 6th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme was kindly hosted by the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand and co-organized by Mae Fah Luang University in Chiang Rai, Thailand. The 7th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme was later generously hosted by the Commission on Higher Education, Philippines and co-organized by the University of the Philippines-Diliman from 8-9 May 2014 in Manila, Philippines.



Advancing Knowledge Frontiers in Higher Education System Management

In striving for excellence within the dynamic context in which universities and other higher education institutions in the region operate, SEAMEO RIHED recognizes the need to advance knowledge on regional higher education systems, as well as their transformation and harmonization. With support from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), SEAMEO RIHED is implementing a policy action research project to build a common credit transfer framework the Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia, or ACTFA—to provide the Greater Mekong Sub Region, including Cambodia, the People's Republic of China (specifically, Yunnan Province), Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, and non-GMS countries, including Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea and Malaysia, means of simplifying credit transfer arrangements in higher education and promoting the harmonization of higher education across Asia.

Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia

3-5 February 2014 Bangkok Thailand

With ongoing support from the Asian Development Bank, SEAMEO RIHED continued a policy action research project in 2013-2014 to develop a common credit transfer framework for Asia. ACTFA—the Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia—comprises four key components: 1) mutual recognition, 2) credit transfer, 3) grade transfer, and 4) supporting mechanisms.

From 3-5 February 2014, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) supported SEAMEO RIHED through the MEXT Expert Dispatch Program by sending Assoc. Prof Dr. Taiji Hotta, an expert on credit transfer systems, to SEAMEO RIHED to provide technical assistance and plan for pilot implementation of the framework.

Later in February 2014, SEAMEO RIHED was also able to secure additional funding from ADB for future implementation of ACTFA, including a piloting phase, evaluation and finalization of the framework. Preparation for pilot implementation is currently ongoing with a plan to begin recruiting higher education institutions from the region to participate in late 2014.



Governing Board Meeting

27 September 2013 National Institute of Education Singapore

The SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board is the main policy making body of the Centre and comprises one representative from each SEAMEO Member Country, with the exception of Timor Leste. The Governing Board is responsible for operational policies, strategic planning, annual evaluation and review of the Centre's programmes and budget within the framework of its approved five year Development Plan.

The 21st SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting in September 2013 was kindly hosted by the National Institute of Education, Singapore. Members of the SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board representing Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam attended the Meeting.

In addition, representatives from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (ASAIHL) and officials from the SEAMEO Secretariat attended the Meeting.

During the Opening Ceremony of the Meeting, Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of the National Institute of Education, Singapore, remarked on the importance for higher education sectors to be mindful of the need for relevant 21st Century approaches to teaching and learning. Over the course of the Meeting, the Governing Board discussed policies and issues related to the support and development of regional higher education and the work of SEAMEO RIHED.



Regional Seminar on Teacher Education

28 September 2013 National Institute of Education Singapore

The Regional Seminar, organized annually backto-back with the SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, serves as a discussion platform for policy makers, university leaders and faculty members with key roles in higher education in Southeast Asia to discuss and share knowledge and information on emerging trends and matters of regional importance.

In 2013-2014, the Regional Seminar was kindly hosted by the National Institute of Education, Singapore. In line with the focus of SEAMEO RIHED's activities and with the support of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Members, the Regional Seminar acknowledged the central role and importance of teacher education in driving the development of higher education.

In addition to the presentation of country reports from eight SEAMEO member countries, a panel of leading teacher educators from other countries, including Denmark, Japan, Taiwan, Switzerland, New Zealand and the United States, also shared their perspectives with the Seminar.

The presentations focused on four areas: teacher selection, preparation and professional development, the institutions responsible for teacher education, the framework and philosophy supporting teacher education and challenges and opportunities for the internationalisation of teacher education.



Meeting of Directors General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia

27-28 May 2014 Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam

The Meeting of Directors General/Secretary General/Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia is held annually and has served as a formal forum where high ranking officials responsible for higher education can share and discuss the development of higher education policies and practices since 2005.

In 2014, the 8th Meeting of Directors General, Secretary General, Commissioner of Higher Education in Southeast Asia was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam, SEAMEO RIHED, and the British Council on 27-28 May in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Meeting was attended by Directors General, Commissioner of Higher Education, and country representatives from Southeast Asia as well as representatives from relevant regional and international bodies.

The Meeting was honoured by His Excellency Prof. Dr. Bui Van Ga, Vice Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam, who delivered the opening speech and opened the Meeting. Over the course of two days, the Meeting discussed progress and ways forward on the four priority areas for the harmonisation of higher education in Southeast Asia, including: student mobility enhancement, leadership development, e-learning and mobile learning, and ASEAN research clusters.

The Meeting also discussed the Bologna Process and the UK experience in higher education harmonization as well as different visions for the future of higher education in the region.



Organizations in Collaboration with **SEAMEO RIHED**

- China Academic Degrees and Graduate Education Development Centre (CDGDC)
- ASEAN-China Centre (ACC)
- ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)
- ASEAN University Network (AUN)
- Asian Development Bank (ADB)
- Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges (AGB)
- The British Council (BC)
- Commission on Higher Education, the Philippines
- European Association for Quality Assurance (ENQA)
- German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)
- German Rectors Conference (HRK)
- Higher Education Leadership Academy, Malaysia
- Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam
- Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports, Cambodia
- Ministry of Educatin, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT)

- Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
- Ministry of Education, Myanmar
- Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia
- Ministry of Education, Malaysia
- Ministry of Education, Singapore
- Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam
- National Institute of Education, Singapore
- Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand
- Office for National Education Standards and Quality Assessment (ONESQA)
- SEAMEO Secretariat and other SEAMEO Centres
- Tsukuba University
- UNESCO Bangkok
- UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP)
- Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- University of Potsdam
- Other Higher Education Institutions

SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Member Countries and Affiliate Members

Member Countries



Brunei Darussalam



Cambodia



Indonesia



Lao PDR



Malaysia



Myanmar



Philippines



Singapore



Thailand



Timor-Leste



Vietnam

Associate Member Countries



Australia



Canada



France



Germany



Netherlands



New Zealand



Spain



United Kingdom

Affiliate Members







Governing Board Members

Governing Board Members

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