

Meeting of National Coordinators of ASEA-Uninet, Murcia/Spain, 8-10 October, 2007

Protocol

Agenda:

- Report of the Chairman
- Reports of the European Coordinators
- Reports of the Asian Coordinators
- Discussion About New Members
- Next Plenary Meeting

After being received and introduced to the University of Murcia by the head of the International Relations Area, the 1st working session takes place in the Sala de Audiovisuales, Campus de la Merced, Avda. Sto.Cristo s/n. The session holds the following items of agenda:

Report of the Chairman

Personalia: the chairman remembers and expresses deep condolences for Mr. Norman Revell and Mr. Alfred Ebenbauer, who both passed away recently.

The chairman notifies about Mrs. Margaret Ostermann's retirement as secretary of Asea Uninet at the University of Innsbruck and her succession by Mrs. Maria Price-Placzek.

He also informs the national coordinators that an extension of programmes is being considered and an inter-governmental agreement, under the umbrella of the Asea Uninet, is to be signed by Pakistan and Austria. The aim of this new programme is the creation of a new technological university in Pakistan. In relation to this new plan of work, also university teachers from other European partner-institutions of Asea Uninet will be encouraged to work in Pakistan. The description of the available posts as well as the conditions to apply will be disseminated by the Austrian representatives. Electrical, Mechanical and Civil Engineering, IT, Basic Sciences and Economics, among others, are the main disciplines to be taught in the Pakistan-Austrian University.

Simultaneously a pilot project addressed to Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR has been implemented. According to this project, an approximate number of 10 to 20 students per year will be able to get a Master Scholarship to study in Thailand. The need to pay special attention to the selection processes is emphasized and the creation of selection committees is highly recommended.

Report of the European Coordinators

Report by University of Trento representative, Mrs. Carla Locatelli, including the following points:

1. Mrs. Locatelli informs about the mobility actions carried out together with universities in Vietnam and Thailand.
2. Mrs. Locatelli informs the rest of participants about the expiration of the intergovernmental agreement between Italy and Indonesia. Therefore mobility will be much more difficult, unless this agreement is renewed.
3. The representative of Trento informs about the development of two Erasmus-Mundus projects:
 1. In local development: Germany, Ljubljana and Belgrade will participate;
 2. In Computer Sciences: Bangladesh, Indonesia, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines and Nepal are taking part.
4. Furthermore, students from Bangladesh, Thailand and Malaysia are being received in Trento.
5. A list of courses which are taught in English at the University of Trento is provided to all participants.
6. The website with informations regarding the Italian Higher Education System as well as the grants and scholarships offered by the Italian government is recommended:
<http://www.study-in-italy.it/>.

Other remarks by:

Mr. H. Rifá Burrull (University of Oviedo) and Mrs. B. Muñoz Clares (University of Murcia). The opportunities the Spanish government is offering for Asian students to study in Spain are managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the BECAS MAE programme which is published annually in www.aeci.es during the first academic semester (September-December each year). Since the information is provided in Spanish only, an English translation will be provided by the University of Murcia.

Mrs. Marcella Orrú (University of Trento). It is suggested that links to the websites offering national grants and scholarships programmes for Asian students and teachers are included in the Asea Uninet website.

The chairman. The poor attendance of national coordinators in this meeting is remarked and discussed.

Report of the Asian Coordinators

Thailand

1. The chairman, on behalf of Mr. Piniti Ratanakul, informs the participants that the educational agreements have been accepted by the new government, identical to the one established by the previous government.
2. Asea Uninet will be the umbrella of a Thai Minister's visit to Austria.

Indonesia

1. The National Coordinator, Mr. Edwan Kardena, notifies that a new contact person has been appointed in Indonesia as National Coordinator.
2. It is remarked by the Chairman that the post of a National Coordinator should remain unchanged for as long a period as possible so that knowledge can be accumulated and preserved.

Philippines

1. Participants are informed by Mrs. Amelia Guevara about a students mobility action from the University of Innsbruck to the University of Philippines.
2. Information is provided about a scholarship programme for students worldwide which takes place for the first time under the umbrella of Asea Uninet and is funded by the University of Philippines.
3. Collaboration with Higher Education Institutions in Madrid, Barcelona (with regards to research) and in Alcalá (with regards to Spanish Language) is reported by Mrs. Amelia Guevara.

Vietnam

1. Mr. Ngo Chi Trung informs that a revival of the existing agreements is being dealt with.

Discussion About New Members

Mrs. Carla Locatelli, representative of the University of Trento proposes and seconds the proposal of the University of Genova as new partner, having introduced this university as a “comprehensive one”. It is agreed that the Italian National Coordinator will invite the University of Genova to submit its application to the Plenary Meeting in Vienna, 2008.

Mr. Ngo Chi Trung, representative of the Hanoi University of Technology, Vietnam, proposes and seconds the proposal of the University FPT, also in Vietnam, as a new partner. It is described as a recently set up university (1 year old), working for the Government in Vietnam and for the private sector, not performing research but developing new technology. They agree to contribute to the net with EUR 10.000 per year if admitted.

In relation to the FPT acceptance, three topics are discussed:

1. the quality and standard a university should provide to be able to join the net;
2. the status and name of “sponsoring members” and
3. the question of including private universities.

With regards to these three points, the following opinions are expressed:

1. Universidad de Oviedo: expresses through Mr. Rifá Burrull, reticence to include private institutions. On the other side, does not think FPT’s application should be accepted.
2. University of Trento: expresses, through Mrs. Carla Locatelli and Marcella Orrú, the need to include some quality criteria in order to accept new partners, namely, a research tradition, a comprehensive nature and a government recognition. This proposal is supported by all representatives attending the meeting.
3. University of the Philippines: expresses, through Mrs. Amelia Guevara, its approval of private institutions joining the net but remarks the need to include some requirements regarding the open-minded nature of private institutions applying for membership. This idea is fully supported by all representatives attending the meeting.
4. University of Murcia: expresses, through Mrs. Bibiana Muñoz, its approval to include private institutions but suggests to check all requirements as expressed by the University of Trento and the University of the Philippines.

5. Institute of Technology Bandung supports, through Mr. Edwan, the idea of private universities being accepted as new members.
6. Chairman: fully supports the acceptance of private institutions as sponsoring members, as well as the requirements expressed by the rest of members and suggests to accept this kind of institutions up to a maximum of 10% of the overall number of members.

The following agreements are finally achieved:

1. It is agreed that “sponsoring member” is a more appropriate name than “supporting member”. It is understood that as “sponsoring member” any private member contributes a higher annual membership fee to Asea Uninet (EUR 10,000).
2. It is agreed that in order to accept a private university, the following quality features should be met:
 1. University to have a comprehensive nature;
 2. Research should be a major activity for the candidate;
 3. it should be an open-minded institution, that is, no discrimination in terms of religion, ideology, sex etc should be accepted within the candidate institution;
 4. it should be recognised by the national Government.
3. Though FPT does not meet the quality requirements (as agreed during this meeting to access the net) and except the representatives of Vietnam and Austria - none of the other National Coordinators support the membership, a letter will be sent to FPT by the Chairman, Mr. Rode, where all quality requirements will be clearly stated. It is then up to their decision whether to present an application for membership during the next Plenary Meeting (Vienna 2008).

Next Plenary Meeting

A Review of the next Plenary Meeting is offered by the Chairman.

The main points are as follows:

1. It will take place from **13th to 17th July 2008** in **Vienna, Austria**
2. The agenda will be as usual
3. New applications
4. A revision of the membership fees and policies will take place during this Plenary meeting.

End of the meeting.

List of Participants

Attendants:

Prof. Dr..Bernd Michael Rode, Chairman, European Coordinator and National Coordinator of Austria

Dr. Edwan Kardena, National Coordinator of Indonesia

Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli, Vice-Coordinator for Europe and National Coordinator of Italy

Ms. Marcella Orru, University of Trento, Italy

Dr. Amelia P. Guevara, National Coordinator of the Philippines

Prof. Dr. Héctor Rifà, National Coordinator of Spain

Ms. B. Munoz Clares, University of Murcia, Spain

Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, National Coordinator of Vietnam