

Proceedings of the Tenth Plenary Meeting ASEA - UNINET

Vienna, Austria, 13-17 July, 2008

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I. Welcome Speech by Chairman

The Chairman, Prof. Bernd Michael Rode, welcomes the members and the representatives from the embassies. He gives a report of absent members and makes some remarks on the acceptance of new members, quoting the results of last National Coordinators meeting in Murcia, Spain, in October 2007. In principal the network is open for private universities, in case they are willing to pay considerable higher membership fees (20 times more), which can be argued with their better economic situation.

But the main point of the decision is that ASEA UNINET consists of full scale universities up to Ph.D. level. Members have to be active in research. They have to be an open minded institution (in the sense of no discrimination) and recognized as full scale by their national government. He asks the coordinators to take into account these conditions when they encounter applications.

II. Reports of the Regional and National Coordinators

1. Reports of the European Coordinator and National Coordinators from Europe

The Chairman asks the National coordinators to report what they have prepared, including specific developments in their countries. So far Indonesia, Italy, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia (including a special address by the new rector of Gadjah Mada University) have announced reports. He asks the members to propose the host for the next National Coordinators Meeting.

The Universities of Strasbourg, France, left the network, while others are in the pipeline to be accepted, like Genoa. Verona wants to leave, due to a "reorientation" of their international policy. There are some problems in Spain, in the way that Barcelona has become silent. There is a decision to be made on this university.

He reports on a significant increase in projects during the last years, which was met by a budget increase by the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research for this year. The budget for ASEA UNINET was increased by a small extent, while the budget for Technology Grants was increased considerably.

There are some large Projects with Pakistan, one is the staff development programme of the Pakistani government, in which about 100 Ph.D. candidates are sent to Austria every year. At the present Austria hosts about 280 of them.

Second, Pakistan set up a programme, UESTP (Universities of Engineering Science and Technology), in cooperation with European and Asian partner countries. These universities adopt the curricula of the partner countries and are expected to offer the same quality. This project is large-scale and amounts to approx. EUR 500,000,000 alone for the UESTP in collaboration with Austria. Austria has reached good progress, the location of the university has been decided, and the teaching programme is scheduled to commence in the autumn of 2009. Full scale operation will be reached two years later at a picturesque site in Lahore. The last part of the ceremony, i.e. the signing of intergovernmental agreement, is scheduled for September 2008 in Pakistan with the Austrian Minister of Science and Research, H.E. Johannes Hahn.

ASEA UNINET is seen as a good example for the possibility of performance and the promotion of programmes set up by ministries. Its excellent networks and informal consultations facilitate Austria's diplomatic representation to make the final steps. ASEA UNINET has initiated and supported a manifold of politically important visits, e.g. the President of Vietnam's visit to Austria, several visits of ministers from member countries, active participation in ASEM Conferences etc.

Despite its limited budget, the network shows that having close friends in Universities, one can achieve more than in the classical way.

Despite all these positive trends, there are problems with visa procedures. The Schengen treaty is complicated and it sometimes proves to be very difficult to get visas in due time. Problems will have to be resolved in the new Erasmus Mundus programme. For guest researchers, Austria has already found solutions but for the exchange at student level it is

more difficult, because there will always be people who exploit a stay for purposes other than studies and research. The Chairman asks the attending ambassadors and representatives of embassies for help, to find ways to facilitate academic cooperation and exchange of scientists, teachers, and students, also between European Countries.

2. Reports of the Asian Coordinator and National Coordinators from Asia

The Regional Coordinator for Asia, Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, welcomes the Asian delegation, and thanks the Chairman and the local staff for their work and their warm welcome.

Recalling from the last Plenary Meeting in Vietnam, the possibilities for the expansion of scholarship programmes to other countries like Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia were discussed. During the last 18 months the Thai side has worked closely with European colleagues to further develop and put into effect this idea. Universities in Laos and Cambodia welcome the programme, Myanmar seems a little more complicated. The Commission on Higher Education from the Ministry of University Affairs, Thailand, has been very helpful in this initiative.

Concerning new memberships, there have been various contacts with universities, the Thai side has given green light for the application of two new universities. The Regional Coordinator stresses the importance to better communicate the Ph.D. programmes to the target groups and to make joint proposals to funding agencies.

So far five coordinators have asked to report on national activities. They are asked to narrate in alphabetical order, i.e. Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam.

Dr. Edwan Kardena welcomes the coordinators from the four participating Indonesian universities. Unfortunately no representative from Diponegoro University has made it to Vienna. He then presents research programmes and cooperations between Austrian and Indonesian universities. There have been exchange visits between the University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna, and an Indonesian business school for one month scholarships, a new initiative in education in business management. As the director for higher education has been replaced, information regarding Ph.D. scholarships has not been spread successfully among possible applicants. From the national total of 800 scholarships for Ph.D.s only six students have been selected to study in Austria. The age limit of 30 years for these scholars should be discussed.

The chairman responds that this age limit has been discussed several times. Nowadays the attitude of scholars has changed, the attitude of universities has changed, and in his opinion it is good to invest into staff and students as long as they are young and their brain is fresh, and another reason is to invest into people before families are appearing.

The National Coordinator for Italy, Prof. Carla Locatelli was not able to join. So Prof. Giancarlo Spinelli presents together with Laura Paternoster. Verona withdraws from the network as they have changed their priorities. The free University of Bolzano, a private institution, has expressed its wish to join ASEA UNINET. They are currently in the process of restructuring, so the procedure has been put on hold.

The National Coordinator was contacted by the University of Trieste. It will take them approx. one more month time to decide if they want to apply for membership. The University of Genoa is present at this meeting as an applicant and is looking forward to giving their presentation afterwards. Italy had no meeting of coordinators recently. One is planned by the

end of the year. Italy endures another university reform, where many professors are involved in trying to solve some problems recurred by the last reform.

As for Erasmus Mundus, Italian Universities try to solve visa problems by working together with Erasmus Mundus counterpoints and the Italian Erasmus Mundus National Office. A project with Thailand, also involving the Universities of Innsbruck, Murcia and Burapha, is well on its way.

Italy launched a call about cooperation with Vietnam, "Vetran", to get together with Vietnamese universities. The programme is intended to train young researchers and post docs to create common research areas, such as basic science, information technologies, energy requirements. The University of Trento grants some scholarships through ASEM. For the past 18 month five scholarships were given. Trento is always eager to extend their bilateral agreements within the framework of ASEA UNINET.

Spinelli continues with an overview of the activities of the Polytechnic University of Milan. From Asian ASEA UNINET member countries, Milan received 135 master students during the past two years, 24 students came from universities respresented in ASEA UNINET. Last year two Ph.D. students came from Vienna, and 14 more via Erasmus Mundus. The Polytechnic University and various companies offer grants to foreign students. Milan is very open to bilateral agreements and has expertise in what they perceive as real double degrees. These double degrees last one year longer for the master programmes, and on the Ph.D. level two independent theses have to be written. Milan has a project with the Indonesian government on turbines where tides and currents between islands are used. The Expo 2015 will take place in Milan.

Nordin gives a commitment of Malaysia's participation in the network, especially in the field of medicine. He sees the need for realignment and adjustment.

The chairman answers that there will still be many opportunities to dicuss programmes, as medicine is strongly represented, and recommends to get in contact with some of the participants.

Guevara talks about the activities in the Philippines. The University of the Philippines is the only member university of the Philippines in ASEA UNINET. The relationship continues to be an enriching experience. Concerning the scholarship programmes with Austria, presently five Ph.D. students study in Austria. There is always a manifold of research visits and a visiting professor programme. Mathematics is taught during a summer programme. The Asian Studies Programme, organised by Prof. Christian Traweger from the University of Innsbruck, hosted 15 students in 2007 and 18 students in 2008. Two new initiatives were started. In 2007 some member universities started to send exchanges students to the university. academic fees were waived, other students are welcome. A bilateral agreement was signed with the University of Innsbruck. There are ongoing efforts for an agreement with the University of Trento, which is to be signed towards the end of September 2008. Recently there was a meeting in Manila with the Ministry of Education. Collaboration in academic research will be further supported and enforced.

The National Coordinator for Thailand, Piniti, gives a presentation which can be found here XXXX. Piniti stresses the focus on scholarships granted by the Austrian and the Thai government. Interviews take place in February and July every year.

The chairman adds that the Asian Study Programme is open to students from all member universities, and North South Dialogue scholarships are open worldwide. Many other countries are eligible, but the focus lies on least developed countries. Therefore technology grants have been installed, which in Austria are not run by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but by the Ministry of Science and Research. These technology grants are completely entrusted to ASEA UNINET. Thus the procedure is less complicated and decisions are fast. The budget has recently been increased and will amount to EUR 800,000 per year in 2009. These grants are open for all ASEA UNINET countries, even for new members, and include basic sciences, economics, medicine, pharmacy, and music, too.

Trung reports on Vietnamese activities and starts with the visit of the President of Vietnam, Nguyen Minh Triet, to Austria. In the course of the visit, a cooperative programme on Ph.D. training was discussed. Two summer courses for Austrian students were organised, as e.g. in 2007 the "International university" was held during three weeks and involved student exchange activity between students of Hanoi University of Technology, Hanoi National Economics University and University of Economics and Business Administration, Vienna, Austria. 20 Austrian students, three professors from Austria and 15 Vietnamese students and professors participated in this joint programme. In the "Asian Studies Program" 17 students and two professors from Austria visited and studied in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City in 2007. The Italian-Vietnamese cooperative project "Viet-Net" (between four Vietnamese universities and three Italian universities) includes short-term research stay and Vietnamese students' participation in a summer programme of the University of Trento. Other cooperative projects exist between the University of Trento, the Polytechnic University of Milan and four Vietnamese universities.

There are also ASEA UNINET cooperative research projects in the field of information technology, textile engineering, etc. between Hanoi University of Technology and the Technical University of Vienna, and Hanoi University of Technology and the University of Innsbruck.

Hanoi University of Technology is working on a joint degree programme with the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna.

There was a music master class in Hanoi, which included short-term exchange of young teachers of the Music Conservatory Hanoi.

Furthermore there exists a scholarship programme (Ph.D., short term visit, and short term research stay) for Vietnamese candidates to study in Austria, a scholarship programme for three to four month research stays in Italy (in the framework of the Viet-Net project). Vietnam also helped in organizing the exchange of professors for the music master class in Hanoi with professors from University of Music and Dramatic Arts, Graz, Mozarteum, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna.

The rector of the University of Gadjah Mada (UGM), Prof. Sudjarwadi, stresses his great pleasure to speak to the assembly and starts by introducing his university. It is the oldest Indonesian university, established in 1849, and at the present has about 50,000 students. UGM joined ASEA UNINET in 1994. At that time the research focus was set on sociology, food security and food safety. In 2003 there was a reorientation towards better programming of education, fair use and leadership. ASEA UNINET is perceived as a very important vehicle for professors and students. UGM constantly tries to open wide rooms for creative partnerships as a synergy across borders.

The chairman adds, that the University of Gadjah Mada is an ideal example for the success of ASEA UNINET. Some network graduates are now leading departments, there have been several successful initiations for completely new areas of research, such as computational chemistry, where two Innsbruck graduate work. Also H.E. Prof. Dr. Kusmayanto Kadiman, before becoming minister, was National Coordinator for Indonesia and Chairman of ASEA UNINET. The same can be said for Vietnam, where Prof. Banh Tien Long is now Vice Minister.

Psarropoulou from Greece conveys the National Coordinator's regards and offers to host the next National Coordinators at the University of Ioannina.

The Chairman thanks and sends back the regards. He asks the delegates to consider the proposal and to talk about it at a later time. He then gives a reminder of the Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar initiative, which was born in Nha Trangh. While these countries do not have universities of the level required, it seems useful to have cooperation, i.e. some joint study programmes with these countries, which will then prove essential for staff development. A committee headed by Piniti has already done preliminary work in this field by visiting these countries and by proposing the first steps to take. Thailand plays an important part as neighbouring country, granting favourable conditions for future students. Austria grants on-place scholarships in Thailand through the technology grants scholarship programme.

Piniti replies that after consultations, the Thai Commission of Higher Education (CHE) has granted full support and is pleased to take the initiative. An agreement between Thailand and Austria was signed in October 2007, where on-place scholars are exempt of tuition fees. A fact finding mission to universities in Laos and Cambodia with Obenaus, Kahlert, Tjoa, Piniti and representatives of the CHE took place. The response in the target countries was positive, they were very interested in this support. Thai universities will not receive tuition fees. In the initial phase, ten students p.a. will come to Thailand to commence their studies. The project starts in June 2009. The selection process will begin in the late middle of 2008. The fields of studies will involve science and technology, economics and business administration. Concerning Myanmar, so far there have been difficulties in contacting the national Ministry of Education but hopefully in the near future it will be possible to expand this programme to students of Myanmar. In addition to being exempt from tuition fees, the scholarship will cover the expenses of everyday life.

Piniti then gives an overview of the on-place scholarship places already promised by Thai universities, which can be accessed here [XXXX](#). Thailand would like to offer the possibility for other European countries to take part in this programme.

The chairman observes that there are far more promised places than scholarships and also asks other European countries to engage and find possibilities to sponsor some students. The living costs amount to about baht 20,000, as communicated by Prof. Piniti. This figure will have to be discussed as expenses are rising. E.g. in Bangkok accommodation totals up to baht 10,000, the daily allowance is at least baht 200 per day for food and travelling. This comes to around EUR 400 per month. So one student has to be supported with around EUR 5,000 per year.

Kahlert adds that the general impression of the visit was favourable. After talks to rectors and vice rectors in Laos, the situation there proved difficult, as the university system is very small but in the process of expansion. Full assistance of the universities was assured. He had the opportunity to talk to professors there, and a very good impression was given in Vietiang,

Laos, and at the Royal University in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. The latter one seemed better developed than in Laos, offering good facilities and fruitful talks to students. To Kahlert, this initiative seems to be the right programme at the right time. He is delighted that Thai universities accept so many students and also encourages other European countries to participate.

The chairman would also like to ask all the European partners whether they could think about joining the initiative, so the one or the other university could sponsor some students of these countries (EUR 5,000 per person and year for the master programme).

The best of the sponsored students have a chance to be invited to do their Ph.D. in the European sponsor university.

The ASEA UNINET selection teams can be augmented by the sponsor universities.

Kofler thinks that this is a very interesting activity. The Medical University of Innsbruck can accept one sponsorship for a student to Khon Kaen.

Obenaus stresses the point that at the present there are 90 free slots for only ten students financed by Austria. It is impressive for him to see Thailand waive tuition fees.

Rifa congratulates the parties involved on this initiative and adds that the University of Phnom Penh does not engage in the field of medicine. Maybe during the next visit there is some opportunity to explore the reason for that. Their focus lies in architecture and music.

The chairman replies that the problem with medicine is the duration of a master's programme of only two years. They should do the basic studies, the bachelor already in their home country. Since the study of medicine is six years, someone could maybe finance a longer programme.

Obenaus asks the Asian Coordinator to explain the selection procedure.

Piniti answers that the selection of the candidates can be started already in 2008. The first step is the announcement, which will be coordinated with the leading national universities in the countries. Then the selection team will have to go through the applications, as so many areas are at offer. The host university should have the right to select the student and to participate in the selection of the student. After the applicants have been selected, there will be a call for a meeting on how to proceed next. He asks his Thai colleagues for comments.

The chairman explains that ASEA UNINET has substantial experience in joint selection processes, and with the help of the Thai colleagues it should be possible to guarantee quality.

He then receives a call from Indonesia and conveys the message to the plenum: "Kusmayanto, Minister of Science and Technology says: 'I wish I was there to meet all the good friends, my best regards to everybody'".

The Thai coordinator explains that Laos would like Burapha to train junior colleagues in chemical engineering to establish a programme on their own.

The chairman appends to include demand and offer and to match these, but above all, whatever the demand, to find suitable candidates for the master programme.

III. Presentation of New Members

1. University of Genoa, Italy (www.unige.it)

Prof. Prausello from the University of Genoa gives a presentation which can be found [here](#).

2. Udayana University (www.unud.ac.id)

The chairman hands over the chair to the Asian Coordinator who asks Kardena give a presentation of Udayana University which can be found [here](#).

3. Ramkhamhaeng University (www.ru.ac.th)

Rampai Sirimanakul gives a presentation of Ramkhamhaeng University which can be downloaded here XXX

4. Ubon Ratchathani University (www.ubu.ac.th)

Patareeya Wisaijorn gives a presentation which can be found here XXX

After each introduction any open questions were clarified and the acceptance of the new member was put to the plenum. All five above mentioned universities were accepted unanimously as new members.

IV. Focus Areas

The chairman asks the delegates to prepare for the next part of meeting. Since the discussion of focus areas is crucial, he would like the groups to try and determine what would be the best adjustment, adoption and addition to the network.

The money from ASEA UNINET can only be seen as seed money for a maybe larger project or for initial projects, which can prove the feasibility of larger projects in the prospective fields.

For an update of the list of focus areas four groups are formed. Each group appoints their rapporteur.

The four groups of research areas are

1. science and technology
2. economic and social sciences
3. health, pharmacy and medicine
4. humanities and culture (including music)

As in previous times there were decided coordinators for each groups, the chairman asks the same people and maybe some more to act and speak for their group.

Science and technology is represented by Tjoa and Edwan, economy by Obenaus and Guevara, medicine by Kofler and Sittichai, humanities and culture by Kaufmann, Rifa and Winklehner.

The groups are formed, discussions take place at round tables.

Reports of focus areas

Group 1: Get the data (done)

Group 2: Amelia

Group 3, Medicine Pharmacy and Health

Group 4: Humanities, Culture, Music:

Rifa relates about activities about Spanish teachers in Thailand. The teach the teachers programme will start in Khon Kaen in 2009, organised by the University of Oviedo. The Spanish Embassy and the HEC support the founding of participants. He invites the University of Murcia to join these activities. He suggests to Indonesia and Vietnam to also participate in this programme.

Ngo Van Thanh asks for help to provide teachers for the pronunciation of European languages, in particular German and Italian.

V. General Discussion on Network Activities and Procedures

Membership Fees

The chairman points out that the membership fees have remained constant for three years now, but prices (esp. travel costs) have increased. The present fees for public European universities are EUR 500 for with a one time registration fee of EUR 1,000 for new members. Asian public universities pay EUR 300 as annual membership fee and EUR 500 for registration.

He suggests to the plenum to either moderately increase these amounts or suffer from financial problems when it comes to organise the forthcoming meetings. He proposes to increase the annual fee by EUR 100 for both Asia and Europe and asks what people think is appropriate.

Rifa suggests to raise Europe to EUR 650 and Asia to EUR 400.

The chairman thinks this is as reasonable proposal. It would also make sense to double this amount for the one-time registration fees, as some adjustments have to be made. This would then amount to EUR 1,300 (Europe) and EUR 800 (Asia).

Based on the considerations in Murcia, he asks the delegates to come up with a policy for private universities. They have to fulfil all criteria as already cited (full-scale universities, Ph.D. level). He believes that by looking at tuition fees, the economic situation for them is by far much better than for public universities, so the rates should be different. The chairman's idea is to charge them double the fee of European members, i.e. EUR 2,600 p.a., but to impose a substantial entrance fee of e.g. EUR 20,000. For Asian private universities half of the European rate might be justified.

Paternoster replies that this would discourage private universities to enter the network.

The chairman explains that so far two private universities have shown their interest. He was not given the impression that they were worried about high fees. Their income from one student for one year almost covers the entrance fee. These institutions have much more opportunities for income.

He explains that the policy has been to include only accepted governmental universities, but changes seem necessary, as more and more private universities are created. They cannot be excluded forever, but should not be encouraged too much.

Scholz retorts that both the Conservatory of Vienna and the Bruckner University are private in legal terms, but one depend on funds of the local government. One could pay, the second could not.

The chairman replies that if an institution is financed by public sources, it is not really private. The questions is if these institutions are recognized as universities by the law, and adds that the Conservatory of Vienna is not a university.

Thöni adds that the Paracelsus Medical University in Salzburg, a private institution, charges tuition fees of EUR 6,900 per year, which is not that high. He thinks that EUR 20,000 entrance fee is too much and suggests EUR 10,000 as an acceptable first down payment. The membership fee is okay with him, though one could lower the enrolment fee in Austria.

The chairman explains that the fees he suggested are based on personal responses.

Thöni asks if the down payment is communicated as means for maintaining the infrastructure. How can a difference between Asia and Europe be argued?

The chairman answers that the difference is based on the purchasing power in the respective currency. There are only a few chances for ASEA UNINET to create funds to support meetings. This present Plenary Meeting costs about EUR 60,000. No income means no financing of travel costs.

Spinelli asks why a private university should agree to spend this high amount to participate. If they did, he was scared of them to take advantage.

Thöni picks up Spinellis words. If private universities ask for rewards for this fee, what can the network offer? The only argument is to prevent them from joining by exorbitant fees. This is a matter of ASEA UNINET wanting them or not. If not, EUR 30,000 makes sense, if yes, and they ask for something in return, it must be equal to this value.

Tjoa agrees with Spinelli. But since the plenary will agree or disagree to the membership, a prevention of "exploitation" is possible.

Obenaus comes to a complete different question. It was often talked about the potential maximum of participants, to make it possible to survive. There are 65 members at the moment. Should there be more growth? If yes, private universities would be okay. He does not see the fee as decisive hurdle, it should be the involvement. Some are paying for prestige.

The chairman adds to the first questions if the network should grow. There was never a decision to have a maximum, only to grow not too fast. From plenary to plenary the number of new members should be kept below ten. The network has always managed to do so. E.g. this time there are another four members. Given the fact one has dropped out, there are 66 at the moment.

A moderate growth policy should be pursued, irrespective of public or private affiliation, if acceptance is given. The second question is values. They should have contacts and be part of networks in Europe and should also see advantages for their market value.

Spinelli is interested in the links. He somehow doubts if ASEA UNINET really needs them.

The chairman simplifies by asking if the money is really needed to help the purpose of the network. Do private universities have some kind of experience current members might not have, can they be useful for the network? In fact they need the network much more than ASEA UNINET needs them, so he is of the opinion that they should pay more.

The Chairman asks for a decision whether private universities are wanted or if they should be excluded. If the decision comes to exclusion, a discussion about membership fees for them is obsolete. If they are accepted, there should be a limit, something like "never become more than 10 %" (arbitrary value).

Obenaus declares himself as a supporter of the admission but at a limited scale.

The chairman asks for opinions from Thailand.

Piniti answers that the discussion is about the use of the additional money. If the money is spent on Plenary Meetings alone, it is inappropriate to invite them to join. The purpose should be to support more exchange of foreign students.

The chairman replies that the money would be used as a source of income. The income from membership fees of three years is not sufficient to cover the expenses of the National and Plenary Meetings. This Plenary Meeting is subsidized by the Austrian government. Membership fees cannot cover expenses for exchange programmes or research projects. They are used for meetings only.

Trung expresses his concern that the chances for acceptance to the network are the same for public and private universities, he sees a problem in Vietnam.

Scholz is for private universities in principle but with certain limits and a moderate increase.

The chairman makes the proposal:

As the first step, private universities are accepted in principle, but to a limited extent.

At the second step he suggests a limitation of 10 %. Changes to this figure are always possible in future Plenary Meetings.

No objection.

Thirdly, the annual fees for public universities should be EUR 1,300 for Europe and EUR 800 for Asia.

For private universities the annual fees according to tuition fees should be EUR 2,600 for European and EUR 1,300 for Asian members.

No objection.

Concerning the entrance fees for private universities he asks for suggestions from the participants.

Thöni suggests a step by step solution. The network could ask EUR 10,000 for the first three years, for both Asian and European members, and if there is an over demand, the fees can be raised.

Spinelli asks for a concept for the future in order not to be overrun.

The chairman proposes an amount of EUR 20,000, which he bases on talks with rectors of two private universities. They do not feel that EUR 20,000 is a problem.

Kardena explains the Indonesian situation. Publicity in Indonesia is that private universities are willing to pay more than EUR 10,000 for one time publication. There is no issue if private universities join. The problem arises if their annual fee is different from the fees of public universities. It should be the same as everybody else. He remarks that the initial fees should be higher. The Indonesian side needs to have this difference, to avoid governmental influence on private universities. Applicants will have to accept the rules.

The chairman says that private universities will be asked if and how they are financed or subsidised by their government. So ASEA UNINET can get a basis to consider the fees. There could also be different memberships for private institutions, such as ordinary, honorary, or sponsoring member.

Spinelli sees a delicate problem arise. He asks how to ensure that not only the fastest but the best private universities become members.

The chairman then asks the plenary to opt for the entrance fee of EUR 20,000 and EUR 10,000 (European and Asian) or EUR 10,000 for both regions.

A two thirds majority votes for the first proposal, entrance fees of EUR 20,000 and EUR 10,000.

The chairman once again stresses the temporary state of this decision and also remarks that future applicants have to leave the room while the discussion about their acceptance takes place in the plenum.

Voss tells the participants that he will soon change from the university to the private sector. He thanks everybody for the friendship they have shown during the last years. To him it was a pleasure and a privilege to know ASEA UNINET and be part of it. He hopes to stay in contact and to hear from all, wishes all the best and success with the continuation of the network.

The chairman thanks Voss for his excellent work over the past years and wishes him good luck and success for the future.

VI. Elections

Elections took place and following decisions were made:

The National Coordinators are as follows:

Austria: Prof. Bernd Michael Rode, University of Innsbruck
Czech Republic: Prof. V. Marík, The Czech Technical University of Prague
Denmark: to be announced by the University of Southern Denmark
Germany: Ms. Chantal Weber, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg
Greece: Prof. Ioannis Gerotheranassis, University of Ioannina
Indonesia: Dr. Edwan Kardena, ITB, Bandung
Italy: Prof. Carla Locatelli, University of Trento
Malaysia: Prof. Madya Dr. Abdul Jalil Bin Nordin, Universiti Putra Malaysia
Netherlands: Mr. Wouter Feldberg, Utrecht University
Pakistan: Prof. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary, University of Karachi
The Philippines: Prof. Amelia Guevara, University of the Philippines
Russia: Prof. Nikita Golovin, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University
Spain: Prof. Hector Rifa, University of Oviedo
Thailand: Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, University of Srinakharinwirot, Bangkok
Vietnam: Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, HUT, Hanoi
United Kingdom: Prof. W. Ahmad, Middlesex University

The Regional Coordinator for Asia is Prof. Piniti Ratananukul
Vice Regional Coordinator for Asia is Dr. Edwan Kardena

The Coordinator for Europe is Prof. B.M. Rode, University of Innsbruck
Vice Coordinator for Europe is Prof. Carla Locatelli, University of Trento

The new Chairman is Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, Thailand

VII. Various

The new chairman now addresses the plenum and explains that the decision where to hold the next National Coordinators Meeting has to be made. There is an offer from the University of Ioannina, Greece, to host the meeting. Since no other proposal or objection is made, the Meeting of National Coordinators will take place in Ioannina, Greece at the end of May/beginning of June 2009.

Some concluding remarks are made by the European Coordinator. It was a pleasure to come together, there were many good discussion and sessions, which give a good perspective for the coming years. He thanks the participants for the good cooperation and hopes for further nurturing the friendships between universities and countries. He then officially hands over the chair to Piniti.

Piniti is pleased to be nominated and thanks for the support. He will give his best to promote the cooperation with full capacity. Over the past ten years there have been a lot of activities

under the leadership of Rode. He then thanks the Austrian government, for providing support to the network, for the many scholarships and projects.

In his outlook he stresses the importance to make use of existing resources and to also seek support of international organisations like EU and ASEAN. Concerning the exact venue of the next Plenary Meeting in Thailand, participants will be informed well in advance.

The European Coordinator closes the session by thanking the local staff, the Austrian Ministry for Science and Research, and the continuous strong support from ministry officials.

List of Participants

Austria

Prof. Dr. Sepp Hochreiter, Johannes Kepler Universität Linz
Prof. Dr. Gilbert Reibnegger, Medizinische Universität Graz
Prof. Dr. Walter Kofler, Medizinische Universität Innsbruck
Prof. Dr. Rudolf Mallinger, Medizinische Universität Wien
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