

MINUTES - ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting

Vienna, November 23rd –25th, 2016

Date: November 23rd – 25th, 2016

Meeting Location: SBA Research, Favoritenstraße 16, 1040 Vienna, Austria

Minutes: Katrin Detter BA, Andreas Lichtenberger and Niina Maarit Novak BSc. Msc.

PARTICIPANTS

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode, ASEA-UNINET Honorary President (Austria)
- Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli, ASEA-UNINET President (Italy)
- Assoc.Prof.-Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia (Vietnam)
- Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Obenaus, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe (Austria)

National Coordinators

- Prof. A Min Tjoa (Austria)
- Prof. Gamantyo Hendranto (Indonesia)
- Dr. Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi (Malaysia)
- Barbara Zacharias (Germany)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nitinant Wisaweesuan (Thailand)
- Prof. Triantafyllos Albanis (Greece)
- Prof. Roberto Ranzi (Italy)
- Prof. Dr. Nyan Myint Kyaw (Myanmar)
- Prof.Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary (Pakistan)
- Prof. Maria de Fátima Marinho (Portugal)
- Prof. Daniela Ostatníková, MD, PhD. (Slovakia) excused

Invited guests

- Dr. Fred Luks (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Competence Center for Sustainability, Austria)
- Assoc.-Prof. Sonja Jandová (Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic)
- Prof. Oswald Maurer (Free University of Bozen – Bolzano, Italy)

ASEA-UNINET Staff (Austria)

- Niina Maarit Novak, BSc. MSc.
- Katrin Detter, BA
- Andreas Lichtenberger
- Barbara Karahan, MA
- Martha Eipeldauer

Presentations available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5s5id2daq4d94m7/AABDaHdwBkubOVaRnylQ29F3a?dl=0>

- **Opening of the National Coordinators Meeting 2016 – Honorary President Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode**
 - ASEA-UNINET is in fact one of the most successful networks of its kind
 - In the past years we have been able to do quite a lot of valuable projects for our ASEAN-partners. We have to “live” these paper documents and have to establish contacts beyond the documents, in a more personal form: to do something out of friendship.
- **Welcome address by ASEA-UNINET President and chairwoman Prof. Carla Locatelli**
 - We are acting agents in the pursuit of knowledge and in our strong cooperation.
 - We are here as a family, in terms of caring and working to get to know each other.
 - Our passion for knowledge is very ambitious – it is for global, worldwide wellbeing.
- **Welcome address by host and Austrian National Coordinator Prof. A Min Tjoa**
 - While new areas are arising, areas of innovation, we are driving science, technology and innovation and so is sustainability. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), i.e. the Agenda 2030 of the United Nations is in our minds. Several projects in this regard have already been started. Universities can be a major driver for the SDGs.

Reports by National Coordinators and Regional Coordinators

**For further details on all National Coordinator Reports please take a look at the presentations provided via Dropbox!*

- **Austria**
 - 300.000 Euros for the Ernst Mach Scholarships (90 % successful); with Pakistan: more than 400 PhD candidates with a success rate of 97%; Next deadline March 31st, 2017
 - Indonesia has renewed the Austrian-Indonesian scholarship “DIKTI-agreement”.
 - The Thai-Austrian-scholarships will be continued as well (role model for scholarships)
 - TU-Wien started an Erasmus+ project with the University of Technology in Yangon
 - In October 2015: Special Austrian-Indonesian Science Day this format will be continued in Vietnam in December 2016 with the Austrian-Vietnamese Science Days.
 - New initiatives from the Austrian side are focusing on the SDGs, innovation projects and on reaching out to new members in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.
- **Germany**
 - The University delivers excellence in research and teaching, especially in the areas of IT Security and Security Law, the INDIGO Network and Bayern Digital and is part of a North-South-Network on Urban Self- Organization and Public Life.
- **Indonesia**
 - To intensify the research and cooperation we are trying to organize regular face-to-face meetings and try to receive support from government and local universities.
 - Following the Austrian-Indonesian Science Days last year, several new projects in different fields have started with partners from Austria (projects at ITB and ITS).
- **Italy**
 - The University hosts several VIED – scholarship recipients.
 - We had an Italian day on higher education in Vietnam twice, in 2014 and 2016.
 - We award master scholarships for foreign master students (March) & PhD (July)
- **Malaysia**
 - The new Malaysian national coordinator organized two face-to-face meetings for all Malaysian ASEA-UNINET member universities.
- **Myanmar**
 - Myanmar is changing with a new government and fewer military influence.

- Myanmar participates in the ERASMUS+ program
- Myanmar has to cope with a very difficult bureaucracy (lack of necessary regulations)
- Problems with connection to outside universities – although there is a huge necessity to learn from partners e.g. regarding proposals writing
- 85% of our staff has no experience to handle cooperation with foreign universities.
- Great challenge: change our 6-year study programs to 4-4 ½ year studies until 2022.
- **Pakistan**
 - Pakistan offers research training for ASEA-UNINET
 - Access to spectroscopic and bioassay facilities; Website: <http://lej4learning.com.pk/>
- **Portugal**
 - The activities between Austria and Asia became a priority for us.
 - The key research areas of the University of Porto range from: agrofood, ageing, creative industries, manufacturing, sea, sustainable mobility to health.
- **Thailand:**
 - We grant a music Grant from the OHEC Ministry of Thailand.
 - Thai scholarship applications: problem in succeeding due to lack of English skills
 - Carla Locatelli remarks: Non-English publications are not that much valued.
 - The On-Place-Scholarship program with Cambodia and Laos ended a year ago but is continued under the new name “Thailand Scholarship program”.
 - Thailand 4.0 Model - current priority: sustainability & environmental development
- **Vietnam:**
 - During the last five months we agreed on a cooperation with the ministry.
 - Conference on food & bio
 - The advantage for students attending the Technical University of Liberec is the universities outstanding connection and collaboration with surrounding companies such as Skoda.

Discussion

- Visiting professors: Suggestion to select people from different universities with time & experience and recognize them as distinguish professors for capacity building workshops and visits. Who would finance that? E.g. In the case of Pakistan: Invited guest Lectures, for 3-4 days, are always inspiring. Host institution who is organizing a workshop would take care of the local hospitality of the speaker.
- New Erasmus+ project includes the possibility of teacher mobility.
- In Thailand, public universities are able to apply for funding at the ministry of finance. (process takes at least 3 months and application must be submitted at least 6 months before)
- Matchmaking by European countries: An issue-driven mechanism for finding specific experts for a specific time would be great.
- ASEA-UNINET Virtual Centers of Excellence
- Dual Degrees/Joint Degrees
- Communication among national coordinators/coordination of national universities

<p>Thursday, November 24rd, 2016</p>
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Invited Talk by Fred Luks - Sustainability

- In 1987 sustainability was defined: “as a development, **Sustainable** development is development that meets the **needs of the present** without compromising the ability of future generations to **meet** their own **needs**.” (Brundtland Report)

- The seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include three dimensions, the magic triangle, of Sustainability: Ecology, Economy & Society
- There are five areas of challenges: society, technology, demography, ecology and economy.
 - **Society:** uneven distribution of wealth; Scientists have the huge responsibility to invent in terms of sustainable consumption and production. Humanities are a core issue of sustainable development. We need science and international cooperation for SDGs.
 - **Economy:** scarce resources, economic growth & limits to economic growth; It's a huge challenge to implement COOPERATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY at the business level. Sustainable tourism focuses a lot on transportation aspects and got important due to strong climate changes and an exchange of lifestyles. **2017: official UN Year of Sustainable Tourism.**
 - **Ecology:** climate policy
 - **Demography:** population growth, migration; demography and poverty are linked
 - **Technology:** 4.0. Mobility, energy, sustainable consumption and production.
 - **Humanities, Culture and Music:** Humanities are a core issue of sustainable development.

Discussion

- Economic growth, higher education and computer sciences are hardly addressed.
- Sustainable tourism is a focus for ASEA-UNINET for the next years; Horizon 2020 projects; Costa Rica as very early mover; Science, literature, music, humanities and culture should be improved as well without the use of natural resources.
- ASEAN has three main parts for development: Economic growth, Social progress and sociocultural evolution. The ASEAN community (AC) is similar to the EU. In 2020 there will be a new ASEAN Community (ASEAN Security Community etc.)
- We need better communication between member countries. WhatsApp might be a solution.

Proposal for deepening EU & ASEAN cooperation within ASEA-UNINET

- **Credit System:** We pursue an ASEAN credit system like the Credit Transfer system in Europe (ECTS). Course equivalence should be added to the criteria. What would be the equivalence to TH, IND, VN credit transfer system? ECTS vs ACTS: Let our partners in ASEA propose figures on the equivalence of ECTS. Despite dynamic curricular, we need to have some standards for course equivalences (at least 80 %). Asian Universities will take a look at our ECTS system and rank their courses in English language with suggestion of the number of ECTS. We need more exchange to achieve a possible interchange of credit-points.
- We need to secure that we have quality control, dynamism and course equivalences.
- Many ASEAN students like to come after their bachelor. Possibility for mobility of Master students within the network.
- Collaboration N-S, S-S and N-S-S (+ industrial partner)
- New members: Cambodia, Laos, Singapore
- Invitation from the National University of Singapore

For Details on the presentation of potential new member universities by Assoc.-Prof. Sonja Jandová from **Technical University of Liberec**, Czech Republic and Prof. Oswald Maurer from the **Free University of Bozen – Bolzano**, Italy please see the presentation slides (link on first page!).



Abbildung 1: Impressions from the ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting in Vienna