MINUTES
of the
ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting 2019
from
November 11th - 12th, 2019
at
University of Brescia
Italy

Minutes: Katrin Detter, MA

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Day 1: November 11th 2019

Opening Ceremony – Welcome Addresses and Speeches

On Monday, November 11th 2019, the ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting was officially opened by remarks of Prof. Maurizio Tira (Rector, University of Brescia, Italy), Prof. Roberto Ranzi (ASEA-UNINET National Coordinator of Italy, University of Brescia), ASEA-UNINET Honorary President Prof. Bernd Michael Rode (University of Innsbruck, Austria), ASEA-UNINET President Prof. Gabriele Kotsis (via Skype, Johannes Kepler University of Linz, Austria), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi (ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia, Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia) and Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Obenaus (ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe, Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria).

Introduction of the participants

- Humera Jahan, University of Karachi, Pakistan, representing Prof. Choudhary
- Yi Yi Myint, Professor of Chemistry, University of Mandalay, Myanmar
- Widanarko Uri, National Coordinator of Indonesia, Head of International at Universitas Indonesia, Faculty Member of Public Health, Second Meeting for ASEA-UNINET
- Ngo Chi Trung: ASEA-UNINET Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for South-East Asia and National Coordinator for Vietnam, Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST), Vietnam, working with ASEA-UNINET since 2000
- Miroslav Brzezina: Rector, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic
- Aleš Kocourek: Vice Rector for Education, Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic
- Farizal Rajemi: Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia; Malaysian National Coordinator and Regional Coordinator for South East Asia
- Wolfgang Obenaus: Vienna University of Economics and Business, which is the largest Business University in Europe; Austria, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe
- A Min Tjoa: ASEA-UNINET Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for Europe and National Coordinator Austria, professor at TU Vienna, Austria; associated with ASEA-UNINET since its founding in 1994, chairman for United Nationals Commission on Science and Technology for Development
- Bernd Michael Rode: ASEA-UNINET Honorary President, ASEA-UNINET Office Innsbruck, Austria; founder of ASEA-UNINET
- Katrin Detter: ASEA-UNINET Head Office at Technical University of Vienna, Austria
- Gil Jacinto: Marine Science Professor, Rector in international linkages, University of the Philippines
- Thakerng Wongsirichot: Prince-of-Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand; field of computer science
- Friederike Trotier: University of Passau, Germany; post-doc in South-East Asian studies, representing Prof. Korff
- Roberto Trotier: Università degli Studi di Brescia, National Coordinator of Italy; Rector delegate

National Coordinators’ Reports

Countries represented via National Coordinator Reports at the meeting included:

- Austria (by Prof. A Min Tjoa)
- Czech Republic (by Ing. Aleš Kocourek, Ph.D.)
- Germany (by Friederike Trotier, PhD)
- Indonesia (by Dr. Baiduri Widanarko, PhD)
- Italy (by Prof. Roberto Ranzi, PhD)
- Malaysia (by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi)
- Myanmar (by Prof. Yi Yi Myint)
- Pakistan (by Dr. Humera Jahan)
- Philippines (by Prof. Gil S. Jacinto, Ph.D.)
- Thailand (by Asst. Prof. Dr. Thakerng Wongsirichot)
- Vietnam (by Assoc. Prof.-Dr. Ngo Chi Trung)
Day 2: November 12th 2019

Vision Talk: “The UN Agenda 2030 on SDGs and higher education”
By Prof. Francesco Castelli, UNESCO Chair
What do Universities have to do to contribute to achieve the UN Agenda 2030?

Results of Discussion:
List Study Programs of our Universities in our network that deal with Sustainable Development.

Strategy for Network Growth and Sustainability
To handle the strategy we can divide the group in two groups and discuss what is our strategy based on our continent to ensure what is relevant:

Two groups: South-East Asia & Europe Working Group – Agenda:
- SWOT analysis for ASEA-UNINET – strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats
- How can we be reachable to the world?
- Good ideas for sustainability projects
- Financial Sustainability of the network – how can we sustain by ourselves? Have a simple international conference on SDGs e.g. where we can realize additional income for the network

Individually:
- Concept for candidate members – Should we wait until they are approached by partners, or should we actively approach partners that we would like to have on board – what is your opinion?
- Instability of national coordinators – what can you do to ensure continuity in your country?

Working Groups Results

Working Group Europe:
by Prof. Obenaus

Good ideas for sustainability projects:
- initiatives for higher education – mooc e.g.
- curricula building e.g. for technology and SDGs – could be financed by Erasmus+
- **Our master programs related to SDGs:** Please prepare a list of programs that are directly linked to the SDGs (all national coordinators) – including degrees taught in English and other languages: state language; Website in Austria: uninetz.at

Creating a conference:
- who will organize?
- Issue on creating enough revenues
• conference fees should as well be moderate
• need to reach a critical mass
• consider existing SDGs related conferences – IFIP conference on sustainable development e.g.

**Further Notes:**
• Most import: **scholarship programs** – that’s where we create researchers – now we also get scholarships funded by SEA-partners
• **ambassadors** who have served in ASEA-UNINET countries, when they are back in home countries its often a hard time; give them a change to report from their experience, as we are working in the countries and push visibility
• **Reports:** Documentation and database of all activities of all universities, budgets of individual Universities but under umbrella of ASEA-UNINET, challenge to have this of all Universities of the network
• **Publications** published with people of other institutions; possible source of funding; important: data

**Working Group South-East Asia:**  
*by Prof. Rajemi*

**ASEA-UNINET SWOT**

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<tr>
<th>Strengths</th>
<th>Weakness</th>
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<td>Leading universities – good resources (human and financial)</td>
<td>Sustainability of the coordinator</td>
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<td>Focus on capacity building on research</td>
<td>Austria focus</td>
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<td>Mobility and scholarship</td>
<td>Circulation of information</td>
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<td>Limitation of the university members</td>
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<th>Opportunities</th>
<th>Threats</th>
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<td>Support from government (ministry higher education)</td>
<td>Other networks</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU funding</td>
<td>Financial support</td>
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**How can we be reachable to the world?**
• International conference
• Social media

**Ideas for Sustainability Projects:**
• Appointed of permanent staff
• Alumni involvement
• International conference under ASEA UNINET
• Publication special issues of SDGs in journal (science and technology and social science)
• Sub thematic network under ASEA UNINET
• Gather information of alumni or person who has been involved in ASEA UNINET projects
• UN SDGs awareness in Malaysia for researchers & students
• ‘Matching system or platform’ to find research partner

**Financial Sustainability:**
• Research funding from government
• EU funding
• Opening up the members in each countries: Philippines – only one University – should we add?
Further Discussions and Results

- **Social Media**: Facebook is not well visible – all members might join and promote themselves in social media
- **What is the result of research visits?** come up with duties, (repeat and as well review via things we require: *final report, photos, simple video*
- **Indonesia**: Community of Coordinators: thinking of having permanent staff – each University/might not be a lecturer but should be professors and optionally additional persons who keep databases
- **National Coordinator**:
  - Should have decision making power!
  - should sustain
- **Alumni Involvement**:
  - Possibility: Linked-In Groups that are really professional
- **For Research Proposals**: directly write to professors and put University Coordinator in CC!
- **Finance Sustainability**: Governments! Ask ministry to pay for fees e.g. Philippines
- **New Candidate Members - Open Membership**: In an open membership phase (candidate members) we can see if a University is active/or low active, after about 2 to 3 years of candidate membership decision can be made.
- **European Partners**: we need a strategy to help European University Members on their way to become successful members
- **We have mooc on IT** (not on SDGs).
- **USE WEBSITE** to communicate everything relevant for students, researches and Universities within ASEA-UNINET.
- **We have to decide about the next increase of Membership at Plenary Meeting 2020 for the year 2021.**
- **The African UNINET will be built on the principles of our ASEA-UNINET** – we are serving as role model.
- **We are planning to establish a contact library.**
- **Responsibilities & Duties of National Coordinators (you can refer to Farizal if assistance is needed)**
  - Need to collect information of the Universities of the country.
  - Share the minutes and outcome of all Meetings with the University coordinators.
  - how many researchers are engaged to ASEA-UNINET is the decision of each Universities by itself
  - National Coordinator has the duty to organize meetings in the country with the partner universities in the country. Having at least one, ideally two meetings within 1,5 years with all Coordinators of the Country: before national coordinators meeting and before plenary meeting – then able to bring up input and questions at the meetings
  - Promote to use WhatsApp for communication especially between Europe and SEA
- **Responsibilities & Duties of University Coordinators**:
  - University Coordinators need to be informed by National Coordinator!
  - Need to know about:
What is the function of ASEA-UNINET?
- SP24 – how does it work
- How to cooperate within the Universities

- **Responsibility of Coordinators in regard of Ernst Mach Grants:**
  - Call will be out in December 2019
  - Try to inform every single university coordinators – they receive and then maybe don’t know what they have to do to proceed.
  - University coordinator should be the main source of information for the grant, except if there is a person who has been in Austria via scholarship e.g.
  - Our role is to engage potential students even before the open the call for the scholarship
  - Can start looking for a potential host professor even one year before, then start working on their application document as soon as it is available
  - Talk proactively to highly engaged students

- **Candidate Memberships & Proposals for New Candidate Members**
  - National University of Singapore requested to be member many years ago.
  - **Proposal of New Candidate Member: UNIMORE (Italy):**
    - Very strong in mechanical and automotive engineering
    - Already active in SEA
    - Longstanding cooperation with Vietnam
    - We have decided to invite them to the ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting in Linz 2020.
  - Regarding the membership proposals of Sriwijaya University and Tadulako University (Indonesia):
    - Discuss with the other University Coordinators of Indonesia, ask for agreement and maybe prioritize one University
    - We will then discuss it at the Plenary Meeting, to see whether the majority has consensus.

**Plenary Meeting 2020 (July 6th-9th at JKU Linz, Austria)**

- Rector of Linz has approved it.
- After this meeting, will take the results of the meeting and get together with president Prof. Kotsis and prepare a first draft of the program and sent if out the National Coordinators.

**Participants of the ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting 2019**

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