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 Ranzi:** 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

SWOT ASEA-UNINET

STRENGHS:
- People who participate should define
- **research-oriented network**, long-term-relations between institutions and people, longer then mobility of one or two terms, really topics of joint interest, long-term thinking and planning – need have persons involved over decades - Come to know each other much better & problems-solving

WEAKNESSES:
- continuity of coordinators
- entry barrier: it takes so long time to be really involved in the research community e.g. – difficult for new members
- no policy for European Partner Universities how to cooperate

OPPORTUNITIES:
- visibility
- potential budget by SEA-partner countries as well - push visibility, show relevance and activity, ask for dedication of budget for ASEA-UNINET at all partner universities
- use website to communicate scholarships for ASEA-UNINET of all universities

THREATS:
- network is based on Austrian funding

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

Strengths
- Leading universities – good resources (human and financial)
- Focus on capacity building on research
- Mobility and scholarship

Weakness
- Sustainability of the coordinator
- Austria focus
- Circulation of information
- Limitation of the university members

Opportunities
- Support from government (ministry higher education)
- EU funding

Threats
- Other networks
- Financial support

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?

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY

Strengths
- Leading universities – good resources (human and financial)
- Focus on capacity building on research

Weakness
- Sustainability of the coordinator
- Austria focus

Opportunities
- Support from government (ministry higher education)
- EU fundings

Threats
- Other networks

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:**
    o Should have decision making power!
    o should sustain
- **Alumni Involvement:**
    o 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**:
    o 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)**
    o Need to collect information of the Universities of the country.
    o Share the minutes and outcome of all Meetings with the University coordinators.
    o how many researchers are engaged to ASEA-UNINET is the decision of each Universities by itself
    o **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
    o Promote to use WhatsApp for communication especially between Europe and SEA

- **Responsibilities & Duties of University Coordinators:**
    o University Coordinators need to be informed by National Coordinator!
    o 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:**
  o Call will be out in December 2019
  o Try to inform every single university coordinators – they receive and then maybe don't know what they have to do to proceed.
  o 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.
  o our role is to engage potential students even before the open the call for the scholarship
  o 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
  o Talk proactively to highly engaged students

- **Candidate Memberships & Proposals for New Candidate Members**
  o National **University of Singapore** requested to be member many years ago.
  o **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.**
  o 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

The participants of ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting 2019 include:

Name	University	Country
Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode	ASEA-UNINET Office Innsbruck	Austria
Prof. Wolfgang Obenaus	Vienna University of Economics and Business	Austria
Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi	Universiti Utara Malaysia	Malaysia
Univ.-Prof. Dr.Dr.h.c. A Min Tjoa	Vienny University of Technology	Austria
Assoc.Prof.-Dr. Ngo Chi Trung	Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)	Vietnam
Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Miroslav Brzezina, CSc.	Technical University of Liberec	Czech Republic
Ing. Aleš Kocourek, Ph.D.	Technical University of Liberec	Czech Republic
Friederike Trotier, PhD	University of Passau	Germany
Dr. Baiduri Widanarko, PhD	Universitas Indonesia	Indonesia
Prof. Roberto Ranzi, PhD	Università degli Studi di Brescia	Italy
Prof. Yi Yi Myint	University of Mandalay	Myanmar
Dr. Humera Jahan	University of Karachi	Pakistan
Prof. Gil S. Jacinto, Ph.D.	University of the Philippines	Philippines
Asst. Prof. Dr. Thakerng Wongsirichot	Prince-of-Songkla University, Hat Yai	Thailand
Katrin Detter, MA	Vienna University of Technology	Austria