



ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' Meeting 2022

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, September 16th, 2022
held online via Zoom

PARTICIPANTS

10 Zoom Participants

Executives

- Prof. Dr. **Univ.-Prof. Dato' Dr. Narimah Samat**, ASEA-UNINET President (Malaysia)
- Prof. Dr. **Wolfgang Obenaus**, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe (Austria)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi**, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia (Malaysia)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung**, Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for South-East Asia (Vietnam)

National Coordinators (in alphabetical order of country)

- Dr. **Muhammad Iqbal Djawad**, MSc, PhD (Indonesia)
- Prof. **Ali Akbar Safavi**, PhD (Iran)
- Dr. **Patricia Nora Riget** (Malaysia)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung** (Vietnam)

Guests (in alphabetical order of country)

- **Guillian Mecate**, MPA (University of the Philippines, Philippines)
- Asst. Prof. Dr. **Wongkot Phumphumirat** (Prince of Songkla University, Thailand)

ASEA-UNINET Staff (Austria)

- **Wayu Christoph Niederhauser**, MSc (ASEA-UNINET Head Office Vienna)

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Opening
- 2) Topics of the ASEA-UNINET Executives & National Coordinators
 - Tributes to the Founder and Honorary President of ASEA-UNINET, Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. **Bernd Michael Rode**.
 - Activities for 2022/2023
- 3) Group Photo
- 4) Further Topics and Meeting Closure

1. Welcome and Opening

Samat welcomes participants to the National Coordinators' Meeting. A short round of introductions is held. She expresses condolences for **Rode**, founder and Honorary President of ASEA-UNINET, and offers a minute of silence as a tribute for this great loss.

2. Topics of the ASEA-UNINET Executives & National Coordinators

Tributes to the Founder and Honorary President of ASEA-UNINET, Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. **Bernd Michael Rode**

Participants share personal commemorations:

Farizal has known **Rode** for the past five years. He acknowledges **Rode's** immense contributions to the network and hopes he may rest in peace.

Djawad first met **Rode** in 2017 at the Plenary Meeting in Graz, Austria, and then again in 2019 in Đà Nẵng, Vietnam. He was very saddened to receive news of **Rode's** passing. **Rode's** speech from his home during the Bernd Rode Award ceremony at the recent Plenary Meeting in Linz, Austria, gave him strength in spirit. He hopes **Rode** may rest in peace.

Obenaus reflects on the network, which would not exist in its current form without **Rode**. He emphasises that the establishment of the network, nearly 30 years ago, was immensely innovative and is a legacy left by **Rode** to the network and its members. As echoed by **Ramoser** from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research at the recent Plenary Meeting in one of his speeches, **Obenaus** acknowledges it is not about a singular input but rather a long-term, transformative investment. It is the network's duty to continue **Rode's** immeasurable legacy.

Trung reflects on **Rode** as one of the founders of the network who is undoubtedly a great scientist in his field; but beyond this, **Rode** was a great and supportive friend.

Phumphumirat shares that condolence ceremonies, both Buddhist and Christian, were organised in Thailand for **Rode** who had supervised and supported many Thai students. On behalf of Prince of Songkla University, he expresses deepest condolences.

Riget states that she had not known **Rode**, however, his influence can be felt in the network's current cooperations. She expresses heartfelt gratitude.

Safavi reflects on having met **Rode** at the Plenary Meeting in Graz, Austria, and in further virtual meetings. He acknowledges that the loss of **Rode** as a changemaker and person who enabled cooperations, beyond a personal loss, is also a loss for the network and expresses condolences.

Niederhauser shares that the various condolences and commemorations on **Rode's** virtual Memorial page have been very touching and expresses condolences. **If network members and other partners would still like to share their commemorations, the [Memorial page](#) will still be open until the end of September 2022.** If assistance is required, **Niederhauser** can post on others' behalf.

Activities for 2022/2023

Ideas for activities are discussed amongst the participants.

Safavi suggests the idea of a symposium, not only for participants in Iran, but also virtual/hybrid formats to exchange knowledge in specific fields. He further invites others to collaborate on joint lectures to promote academic cooperations.

Trung suggests that the network could resume its focus on joint research projects. In Vietnam, there is also interest in summer courses, not only for Undergraduates but also research groups with PhD students from Southeast Asia and Europe.

Farizal notes the APAIE Exhibition in Bangkok, scheduled for March 2023, as an important opportunity for the network to represent itself.

Djawad shares that in Indonesia Coordinators meet four times a year where University Coordinators are asked to present on activities held and mobilities that have taken place. This information can be collated and shared with the ASEA-UNINET Head Office as an activity report.

Phumphumirat announces that Thailand is in process of selecting a new National Coordinator and will inform the President and Head Office soon.

Obenaus shares his observation that there are active and less active members. As Vice President for Europe, he is considering an evaluation process of sorts for the activity of European members. He underlines the importance of proactively approaching new universities that hold potential to add value to the network.

Riget announces a planned webinar in October on ASEA-UNINET grants (further information may be found on the ASEA-UNINET [homepage](#)).

As a general reminder from the Head Office to National Coordinators: **Information to be shared with network partners (e.g., activities, programmes, other opportunities) may be sent by the National Coordinators, or also University Coordinators, to the Head Office for further dissemination (e.g., network internal email). Public information may be shared through the Head Office on the ASEA-UNINET homepage.**

3. Group Photo



Thank you for working together virtually! © ASEA-UNINET

The group photo is available [here](#) for download.

4. Further Topics and Meeting Closure

Niederhauser on behalf of the ASEA-UNINET Head Office requests National Coordinators as well as University Coordinators to review the contact information listed on the ASEA-UNINET homepage. **If a change is required (e.g., contact person, logo, email address, etc.), coordinators are kindly asked to complete the following virtual form and to complete only questions pertaining to the change requested. National Coordinators are asked to share this with their University Coordinators**

Samat announces that the next National Coordinators' Meeting is planned to be held prior to the final meeting in Malaysia, and closes the National Coordinators' Meeting.

Meeting Minutes by Wayu Christoph Niederhauser

APPENDIX:

[Memorial Page of Bernd Michael Rode](https://mural.life/933ff362-56b3-483f-a73d-2ade0a181bce) [https://mural.life/933ff362-56b3-483f-a73d-2ade0a181bce]

[UM Webinar Announcement](https://asea-uninet.org/webinar-research-funding-and-opportunities-with-austrian-universities-under-asea-uninet/) [https://asea-uninet.org/webinar-research-funding-and-opportunities-with-austrian-universities-under-asea-uninet/]

[ASEA-UNINET Change of Contact Form](https://forms.office.com/r/kMm7iwX7i3) [https://forms.office.com/r/kMm7iwX7i3]