



ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' Meeting 2021

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday February 23rd, 2021
held online via zoom

PARTICIPANTS

Executives

- Prof. Dr. **Gabriele Kotsis**, ASEA-UNINET President (Austria)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. **Bernd Michael Rode**, ASEA-UNINET Honorary President (Austria)
- 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); *joined at the end of the meeting*
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung**, Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for South-East Asia (Vietnam)
- Prof. **A Min Tjoa**, Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for Europe (Austria)

National Coordinators (in alphabetical order of country)

- Prof. Dr. **Gabriele Kotsis** (Austria)
- Mgr. Bc. **Linda Marešová** (Czech Republic, representing Rector Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Miroslav Brzezina, CSc.)
- Prof. Dr. **Rüdiger Korff** (Germany)
- Dr. **Baiduri Widanarko**, PhD (Indonesia)
- Dr. **Muhammad Iqbal Djawad**, M.Sc, Ph.D (Vice National Coordinator, Indonesia)
- Prof. Ali Akbar **Safavi**, Ph.D. (Iran)
- Prof. **Roberto Ranzi**, PhD (Italy)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi** (Malaysia); *joined at the end of the meeting*
- Dr. Imee Su **Martinez** (The Philippines)
- A. Eva **Sánchez García** (Spain)
- Asst.-Prof. Bruce **Ferwerda** (Sweden)
- Asst. Prof. Dr. **Thakerng Wongsirichot** (Thailand)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung** (Vietnam)

Guests (in alphabetical order of country)

- Ing. Aleš **Kocourek**, Ph.D. (Technical University of Liberec, Czech Republic)
- Alyssa **Ankadea** (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia)
- Alfrida **Hutapea** (Universitas Indonesia, Indonesia)
- Prof. Alessandro **Paccagnella** (University of Padova, Italy)
- Dora **Longoni** (University of Padova, Italy)
- Prof. Alessandro **Capra** (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Badariah Haji Din** (Universiti Utara Malaysia, Malaysia)
- Matias **Balibrea Gonzalez** (University of Murcia, Spain)

ASEA-UNINET Staff (Austria)

- **Barbara Karahan**, BA BA MA (ASEA-UNINET Austrian University Network Office – AUNO)
- **Veronika Fuchshuber**, MA (ASEA-UNINET Head Office Vienna)

Absent with excuse

- Prof. **Triantafyllos Albanis** (National Coordinator Greece)

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Opening
- 2) Topics of the ASEA-UNINET President
 - Plenary Meeting
 - Exchange of experiences on how to maintain cooperation in a pandemic period
 - Update on funding opportunities and current calls
- 3) Group Photo
- 4) New Universities seeking Candidate Membership
 - University of Padua, Italy
 - University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
 - Thuyloi University, Vietnam
- 5) National Coordinators' Reports
- 6) Further Topics and Meeting Closure

1. Welcome and Opening

Kotsis opens the online National Coordinators' meeting (NC meeting), welcomes the participants, and officially introduces **Dr. Imee Su Martinez**, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs (Internationalization) and Director of the Office of International Linkages, University of the Philippines, as new National Coordinator (NC) of the Philippines.

2. Topics of the ASEA-UNINET President

Plenary Meeting

Kotsis stresses that the main purpose of this NC meeting is the discussion about and subsequent decision on the next ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting; a physical meeting in July 2021 appears not to be feasible. Specifically, she asked the NCs to decide on how and when the elections for the new terms of president and vice president can be held and when and how to organise the presentations for candidate members and the approvals for full membership.

Referring to the **Tjoa's** proposal (sent to the NCs on February 10th, 2021 via email), **Kotsis** asks whether the participants agree with the suggestion to:

- **postpone the 18th ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting** for exactly one year **to** the beginning of **July 2022** (exact dates to be decided);
- **prolongate the existing executive functions for one year** (European and Asian members should nominate their candidates asap, but the formal elections and handover will take place at the next plenary in 2022); and
- **continue with the regular schedule of 1.5 years** and having the 19th Plenary Meeting at the beginning of 2024 (taking place in the Asian country holding the ASEA-UNINET presidency according to the outcome of the voting in 2022).

- **have an agenda item “Candidate Membership” at this NC meeting** to give universities which have applied for membership the opportunity to present their institution at this NC meeting and after a positive voting to assign the status of “Candidate Member”.

All participants NCs agree with these proposals, there are no objections.

Exchange of experiences on how to maintain cooperation in a pandemic period

Kotsis comes back to the suggestion presented by **Rode** in the NC meeting in July 2020 to share regular updates on national visa and entry regulations as well as on university entry requirements (with regard to Covid-19). She asks the participants to send links to national/organisational sites from the member countries which are constantly being updated by national authorities to asea-uninet@oead.at. The information will be shared on the ASEA-UNINET website ([here](#)).

Kotsis gives the floor to the participants and their experience in maintaining cooperation.

Safavi: proposes to face the pandemic times including more technology-based meetings in the ASEA-UNINET community. In the past, ASEA-UNINET was talking about collaboration in terms of travelling. He now proposes to start lecturing/co-lecturing from different universities, for selected number of students. ASEA-UNINET could set up new possibilities of collaboration (not everyone has all the necessary facilities). Safavi offers to be part of the committee which could plan activities, set up a list of opportunities, examples. This should also be published on the website and presented at the next Plenary Meeting.

Kotsis thanks Safavi for this idea and proposes to collect topics on the website. Nevertheless, she informs the participants that funding for this type of online activities is not possible from the side of the Austrian Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), funding is possible only for travelling. Therefore, it would be necessary to find new financial sources for the future and maybe also joint European forces. She asks the participants if there are any volunteers to join Safavi.

Safavi proposes a group of 1 or 2 volunteers from the European part, 1 or 2 from South-East Asia.

Balibrea Gonzalez stresses that the University of Murcia has good experience with online teaching and agrees to focus more on this topic.

Tjoa informs that the Vienna University of Technology TU Wien, together with the ISI Yogyakarta and the Universitas Gadjah Mada has already started a course for 100 students (in Austria and Indonesia). For the Austrian side, he therefore proposes to also involve Prof. Ulrike Herbig from the TU Wien who is experienced in this area and in his opinion would be the perfect person to work in or lead such a group. For the ASEAN-side Tjoa will get in contact with colleagues from Gadjah Mada.

Kotsis summarizes that Safavi and Balibrea Gonzales will be part of the working group. The others should find some experts, who want to join in, and send an email to Safavi.

Korff is sure that virtual collaboration can have far reaching impacts on exchange programmes. At the moment he is involved in new Erasmus programmes with Myanmar. **Kotsis**: confirms that it is important to raise awareness on how much impact ASEA-UNINET can have with such activities.

Tjoa, Rode and **Obenaus** recall similar situations in the past, when academic cooperation lines survived and remained as channels for an open dialogue. The former rector of Mandalay University, Prof. Thida Win, has retired, thus Mandalay University should be contacted to find out whether the university is planning to continue their participation in the network. **Korff** is in contact with colleagues from Myanmar and will try to figure out the situation in Myanmar. **Kotsis** agrees.

Update on funding opportunities and current calls

Kotsis moves this topic to a later moment.

3. Group Photo



Thank you for virtually working together. @ Kotsis

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

4. New Universities seeking Candidate Membership

Kotsis announces that there are three universities seeking membership in the ASEA-UNINET:

- University of Padua, Italy
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy
- Thuyloi University, Vietnam

She gives the floor to **Paccagnella** who holds a short introduction (see [presentation](#)) of the University of Padua. Then she asks **Capra** to present the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (see [presentation](#)) to the participants. **Kotsis** informs that the third university seeking candidate membership, the Thuyloi University, was already presented (see [presentation](#)) by **Trung** in the NC Meeting in July 2021.

Paccagnella and **Capra** thank **Ranzi** for his support and the assembly of National Coordinators for the opportunity to present their universities.

Kotsis informs that in a next step the NCs, will proceed with their voting for approval of the candidate membership status of the three universities. She asks whether time for consultations is needed without the honourable representatives of the universities seeking membership.

The participants agree that there is no need for separate consultations.

Ranzi stresses, that all the Italian ASEA-UNINET members agree to include the two Italian universities into the ASEA-UNINET team.

Trung informs that the Thuyloi University is already operating with Brescia and that all Vietnamese member universities agree to approve the new candidate member.

Kotsis invites the NCs to proceed with the voting and asks whether there are any objections to have an open voting.

The NCs decide that the vote can be conducted openly.

Kotsis asks whether any participating NC has objections to approving the candidate membership of the above-mentioned universities. Any objection should be written into the chat (no comments in the chat). **All new candidate members are approved by exclamation.**

Kotsis officially welcomes the new candidate members.

Tjoa stresses that there is no difference between candidates and full members, they are treated totally equal within the network.

Capra asks when the new candidate members will be officially included into the network.

Tjoa answers that they are already members from now on and they can take part in all activities. In the plenary meeting 2024 they should be full members if they show activities.

Kotsis informs that the new candidate members will be put on the website right after meeting.

Remark: The website was updated on 25th February 2021 (see [Candidate Members](#))

5. National Coordinators' Reports

Austria

Kotsis stresses that the [ASEA-UNINET Annual Report 2019](#) is available for download from the ASEA-UNINET website and thanks all the members who actively participate in the network and make it vivid and successful.

Update on funding opportunities and current calls

(listed in the agenda under "Topics of the President")

Kotsis gives an overview over the scholarship possibilities and project funding opportunities within the ASEA-UNINET in between Austria and the ASEAN partner countries including Pakistan.

Obenaus informs that ASEA-UNINET would like to add Malaysia to the countries eligible to apply for the Ernst Mach Grant – ASEA-UNINET.

Indonesia

Widanarko informs about projects and activities within the ASEA-UNINET conducted in 2020 and planned for 2021 (see [presentation](#)).

6. Further Topics and Meeting Closure

Kotsis asks the participants to

- send any information/reports from the member countries to her or asea-uninet@oead.at (Karahan, Fuchshuber). Further reports can be included into the meeting minutes

- send links to regularly updated organisational websites informing about entrance regulations to asea-uninet@oead.at
- contact Safavi (safavi@shirazu.ac.ir) regarding the working group on online collaboration
- send announcements for future events as well as reports on past projects to asea-uninet@oead.at, this information can be shared on the website.

Badariah Haji Din invites to extending academic collaboration with Universiti Utara Malaysia (students exploring academic systems, nature in Indonesia, staff exchange) and to sign MoUs with UUM.

Tjoa confirms that this is a very good idea, as there is already a longstanding successful collaboration with the university.

Badariah Haji Din further gives an update on the status of **Farizal bin Rajemi**, NC of Malaysia and former Director of the Centre for International Affairs and Cooperation at UUM. He moved to another university in Kuala Lumpur; she is following him as ASEA-UNINET University Coordinator. Moreover, Badariah Haji Din invites to set up a webinar in sharing experience among academics (strategies during the pandemics, especially in online classes, collaborative work).

Kotsis suggests her to contact Safavi on this topic and join his working group.

Kotsis thanks the participants and closes the official part of the meeting at 11:35.

An informal discussion follows.

Meeting Minutes by Barbara Karahan and Veronika Fuchshuber

APPENDIX:

[Agenda](#)

[Presentation shared during the meeting](#)