

ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' Meeting 2020

Minutes

Monday July 6th, 2020

Online (due to the current situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic)

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)
- 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 the country)

- Prof. Dr. **Gabriele Kotsis** (Austria)
- Ing. **Aleš Kocourek**, Ph.D. (Czech Republic, representing Rector Assoc. Prof. RNDr. Miroslav Brzezina, CSc.)
- Dr. **Baiduri Widanarko**, PhD (Indonesia)
- Prof. **Roberto Ranzi**, PhD (Italy)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi** (Malaysia)
- Prof. Dr. **Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary** (Pakistan)
- Prof. **Gil S. Jacinto**, PhD (The Philippines)
- Asst. Prof. Dr. **Thakerng Wongsirichot** (Thailand)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung** (Vietnam)

Guests (in alphabetical order of the country)

- Prof. **Gamantyo Hendrantoro** (Indonesia)
- Dr. **Muhammad Iqbal Djawad**, M.Sc, Ph.D (Indonesia)
- **Alyssa Ankadea** (Indonesia)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Badariah Haji Din** (Malaysia)
- Dr. **Rahayu Ahmad** (Malaysia)

ASEA-UNINET Staff (Austria)

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

Absent with excuse

- Prof. **Triantafyllos Albanis** (National Coordinator Greece)
- Dr. **Thida Win** (National Coordinator Myanmar)

AGENDA

- 1) Welcome and Opening
- 2) National Coordinators' Reports 2019/2020
- 3) University seeking Membership
- 4) Group Photo
- 5) Discussion (including short presentations) on
 - experience with the Covid-19 pandemic situation
 - possible implications for ASEA-UNINET collaboration
 - strategies and actions to ensure an ongoing successful cooperation
- 6) Results and Meeting Closure

1) Welcome and Opening

Kotsis opens the online National Coordinators' Meeting (held to bridge the gap until the next ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting 2020 which was postponed to July 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic), and welcomes the participants. After an overview over the Agenda, she officially thanks the ASEA-UNINET Vice Presidents, and ASEA-UNINET Honorary President Rode. **Rode** declares that online meetings cannot replace in person meetings.

2) National Coordinators' Reports 2019/2020

Kotsis invites the National Coordinators to present their reports (in alphabetical order), for the presentations please click on the active link.

- **AUSTRIA** (by Gabriele Kotsis)
She also informs about the considerations to integrate the ASEA-UNINET Website into the OeAD Website.
- **CZECH REPUBLIC** (by Aleš Kocourek)
- **INDONESIA** (by Baiduri Widanarko, [Indonesia full report](#))
- **ITALY** (by Roberto Ranzi)
Ranzi informs about the call for PhD Application, Brescia University, and provides a [link](#) for further information.
- **MALAYSIA** (by Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi)
- **PAKISTAN** (by Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary)
- **PHILIPPINES** (by Gil Jacinto)
- **THAILAND** (by Thakerng Wongsirichot)
- **VIETNAM** (by Ngo Chi Trung)

Questions/Remarks

- **Candidate Member Vietnam National University Hanoi:**
Trung will follow up on this candidate member university, having received an official letter by the ASEA-UNINET Executive Board, but has not yet reacted.
- **PhD Scholarships within ASEA-UNINET:**
 - **Ernst Mach-ASEA-UNINET Grants, Call 2020:** **Obenaus** stresses, that the PhD-candidates to be selected in August 2020 will be able to start their research in Austria only in March 2021. PostDoc scholarship holders can start at any time. **Obenaus** informs about the highest number of applicants for Ernst Mach ASEA-UNINET PhD grants within the last 5 years. He emphasises that they will be important multipliers for future collaboration.
 - **Austrian-Indonesian Scholarship:** 16 PhD applicants will be invited to the interviews; according to **Obenaus** this is the largest number of candidates since the implementation of this type of scholarship. In August 2020, 40 interviews with Indonesian PhD-candidates will be conducted (AIS and EM-ASEA-UNINET scholarships together)
Remark 20th July, 2020: 9 applicants applied for both PhD-scholarship programmes (AIS and EM-ASEA-UNINET). Therefore, only 31 interviews will be conducted.

Ad 3) Universities seeking Membership

Trung briefly introduces the Thuyloi University, Vietnam ([presentation on Thuyloi University](#))

Questions/Remarks

Tjoa notes that ASEA-UNINET implemented a candidate membership state for universities seeking membership (for a period of 3 years) before becoming a full ASEA-UNINET member. The Executive Board will decide as soon as possible about the candidate membership of Thuyloi University. He considers the university's relations to UNIBS to be very important.

Ranzi asks to keep track of the Universities of Modena and Reggio Emilia (presented at the National Coordinators' Meeting in Brescia, 2019) which have confirmed their interest in becoming ASEA-UNINET members.

Ad 4) Group picture



Smiling faces in difficult times. © Gil Jacinto

[Link to the group picture of the participants at the ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' Meeting 2020](#)

Ad 5) Discussion on Covid-19 pandemic situation

Kotsis underlines two important questions within this topic:

- How to support teaching and research connections in this pandemic time
- How to fight the pandemic as a network

Several participants show their presentations (please click on the active link for download the provided presentations)

- **Discussion Topic 1: New Challenges for Higher Education in Indonesia during the Covid-19 Pandemic**, by Dr. Baiduri Widanarko, Indonesia)
- **Discussion Topic 2: Proposal for co-research projects on COVID-19**, (by Ngo Chi Trung, Vietnam)
- **Discussion Topic 3: UNHAS International Cultural Program's Implementation during the Covid-19 Pandemic** (Indonesia, Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Djawad)
- **Discussion Topic 4: Pakistan's Response against COVID-19** (Pakistan, Prof.Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary)
- **Discussion Topic: Regular update on visa and university regulations for students and researchers** (Austria, Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode)
With regard to Covid-19 **Rode** asks the National Coordinators to provide regularly updated information on visa und university regulations (quarantine, possibilities for collaboration and exchange of staff and students). **Kotsis** supports the idea.
- **Rode** informs about the plan to postpone the Celebration of the Austrian-Indonesian cooperation 2020 to 2021.
- **Ranzi** shares his idea to organize an ASEA-UNINET workshop on COVID-19 for experts at the end of October/mid-November 2020. He stresses that hospitals of Brescia and the University of Brescia (UNINBS) have gained vast experience in COVID-19-research. The top management of UNIBS is involved in ASEA-UNINET (Rector Prof. Tira, prof. Francesco Castelli, prof. Marina Pizzi). Examples for research: Francesco Castelli's papers on COVID:
 - *Laboratory considerations amidst the coronavirus disease 2019 outbreak: the Spedali Civili in Brescia experience*
 - *Clinical presentation and initial management critically ill patients with severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection in Brescia, Italy***Jacinto** and **Tjoa** support this idea as an opportunity for ASEA-UNINET to share experience and bring together individual contributions. ASEA-UNINET provides a great variety of experience and a comprehensive view on Covid-19 from two continents. **Kotsis** suggests creating an ASEA-UNINET Task Force co-chaired by Jacinto and Ranzi. According to **Kotsis** Prof. Schmutzhard (Medical University Innsbruck) would be interested as well.
Ranzi proposes that Choudhardy, Francesco Castelli and Obenaus as well as other economists should participate (e.g. session on COVID-19 and the impact on global economy). **Obenaus** suggests to involve Prof. Sigrid Stargl, a "green economist" (University of Business and Economics Vienna, Christian Doppler Research Center) who would share a different point of view, held a keynote speech during the ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting 2017 and according to **Tjoa** knows ASEA-UNINET very well.
Kostis summarizes that there are many fields of research involved and suggest to opening the webinar to a wider audience, if a group of prominent speakers will participate; **Obenaus**

confirms that the discussion is not limited to ASEA-UNINET.

The Steering Committee of the Workshop could be: Choudhary, Jacinto, Ranzi and Schmutzhard. In a second committee more colleagues as Tjoa, Obenaus etc. could participate.

- **Badariah Haji Din** notes that UUM Malaysia will organise an online-conference on COVID-19. Kotsis confirms that ASEA-UNINET could promote the meeting on the Website and help with finding speakers
- **Choudhary** reminds of positive effects of COVID-19. **Kotsis** confirms that the crisis helps rethink collaboration and to think about hybrid collaboration: The environment benefits from the current limitation in travelling, however physical meetings are still important.
- **Obenaus** suggests having virtual meetings more often, in-between the 18-months gap of the physical Plenary/National Coordinators Meetings. Meetings are not primarily about the content but networking as well. **Kotsis** thinks this is a good idea, as the current meeting was quiet efficient.

Ad 6) Summary and Meeting Closing

Kotsis thanks for the National Coordinators' participation and the efficient meeting and summarizes the two decisions taken:

Decision 1: The National Coordinators will actively send regularly updated information with regard to the current COVID-19 situation to Fuchshuber (asea-uninet@oead.at), who will follow up with countries on missing updates. The information will be provided on the ASEA-UNINET website.

Decision 2: An ASEA-UNINET online workshop on COVID-19 will be held in October/November 2020, organized without submissions of papers. One group of ASEA-UNINET member researchers could be responsible for keynote, timeframe and organization, a second group for technical issues.

Meeting Minutes by Barbara Karahan and Veronika Fuchshuber

Appendix:

[List of participants](#)

[Meeting Agenda](#)

[Power Point Presentation](#) shared during the meeting