

MINUTES - ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting

Prague, June 16th – 20th, 2018

Czech Institute of Robotics, Informatics and Cybernetics (CIIRC),
Jugoslavských partyzanu 1580/3, 160 00 Prague 6, Czech Republic



PARTICIPANTS

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode, ASEA-UNINET Honorary President (Austria)
- Assoc. Prof. Huynh Quyet Thang, ASEA-UNINET President (Vietnam)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis, 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)
- Prof. Dr. Gamantyo Hendratoro, ASEA-UNINET Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects (Indonesia)

NATIONAL COORDINATORS

- Prof. A Min Tjoa (Austria)
- Lucie Koutková, Ph.D. (Czech Republic)
- Prof. Rüdiger Korff (Germany)
- Dr. Indah Suci Widyahening, MS, MSc-CMFM, PhD (Indonesia)
- Prof.-Dr. Carla Locatelli (Italy)
- Dr. Tin Tun Aung (Myanmar)
- Gil S. Jacinto, Ph.D. (Philippines)
- Prof. Maria de Fátima Marinho (Portugal)
- Asst. Prof. Dr. Pattara Aiyarak (Thailand)
- Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ngo Chi Trung (Vietnam)
- Prof. Dr. Muhammad Iqbal Choudhary (Pakistan) excused

INVITED GUEST: Prof. Wolfgang Obenaus (ASEA-UNINET Coordinator Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

ASEA-UNINET STAFF (AUSTRIA): Dipl.-Ing. Niina Novak, BSc MSc (Minutes)

Sunday, June 17th, 2018 – DAY 1

Welcome Addresses

- **ASEA-UNINET President Assoc. Prof. Huynh Quyet Thang**
 - Stresses ASEA-UNINET's focus on Sustainability and highlights that we as a scientific community are in the special position to offer perspectives, suggest plans of action and find ways to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.
 - The significance of our global scientific collaboration is not only visible through the numerous bilateral and multilateral ASEA-UNINET research projects, but also through international workshops, conferences, summer/winter schools as well as networking events, that are conducted each year. Within the network, there are no limits to the areas of academic cooperation. The network is built on personal contacts and home to scientists from both European and ASEAN countries.
- **ASEA-UNINET Honorary President Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode**
 - Focuses on what makes ASEA-UNINET as a network special, in light of numerous networks existing in this world. These are above all the following facts and characteristics: ASEA-UNINET is a research oriented network, a bottom-up organization which is dynamically growing, long lasting research projects and collaboration, long term contacts (former PhD students now professors), long term coordinators ensuring long term stability and relationship (in the sense that coordinators should not change e.g. with the appointment of a new vice-rector etc.), ASEA-UNINET coordinators are professors, intercultural understanding, mutual learning and respect and a common spirit leading to a community feeling of students and teachers.
- **ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe Prof. Dr. Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis**
 - Draws in her welcome address a comparison between ASEA-UNINET as a network and another type of network, i.e. computer networks, based on her personal background and expertise as computer scientist. Focusing especially on the dangers of unlimited growth and inactive members, the importance of node-degree tantamount to the degree and intensity of collaboration between member universities and the question whether we have a sufficient amount of links to reach each other in a fast manner.
 - Concluded by pointing out that the most important aspects of a network are not its abstract links and nodes but actual content and thus real input, and that she is especially delighted to see the great variety of ASEA-UNINET projects from many different disciplines.

Reports by National Coordinators and Regional Coordinators

**For further details on all National Coordinator Reports please take a look at the presentations!*

- **Austria**
 - Currently 19 Austrian member universities and 2 candidate members in the network (University of Klagenfurt and the University of Art and Design Linz). Thanks to the candidate status of the University of Klagenfurt and the University of Art and Design Linz these two candidate members can already participate and apply for ASEA-UNINET projects.
 - The Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research is providing annually approx. € 600.000 for the network (~50% for scholarships especially the Ernst-Mach ASEA-UNINET Grant and ~50 for research projects).
 - 2017/2018 approximately 180 projects of Austrian member-universities in cooperation with ASEAN member-universities were financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)

- Points out that mentioning “ASEA-UNINET as associated member” in applications for EU-grants increases the likelihood for acceptance.
 - The Academy of Fine Arts Vienna has not many projects with ASEAN partners yet and is currently hesitating to become member.
 - 2017/2018 approximately 180 projects of Austrian member-universities in cooperation with ASEAN member-universities were financed by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF)
 - The ranking of the Ernst-Mach Grants ASEA-UNINET scholarships is entirely based on meritocracy. It is currently envisioned to enlarge the target countries and to include the Philippines and maybe Cambodia for the next round as well. Negotiations with the government are planned within the next months.
 - The following acknowledgement statement is required for all publications supported by the Austrian Division of ASEA-UNINET: ***“Research reported in this publication was jointly supported by the ASEAN-European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET), the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and the Austrian Agency for International Cooperation in Education and Research (OeAD-GmbH)”***.
 - Most recent highlights include the first Issue of the ASEA-UNINET Sustainability News and the fact that a former ASEA-UNINET scholar Dr. Weena Gera was awarded the Gro Brundtland Award for Women in Sustainable Development.
 - The SP 24 – 1 month scholarship program is a very flexible instrument intended as seed money for joint proposals and short term research stays (e.g. for Post-docs and Professors), applications are possible throughout the year, on a first-come first serve basis and applications are reviewed and handled in a very timely manner.
 - The call for the Bernd Rode Award for 2019 will be announced soon – all coordinators are kindly asked to encourage their scientists who already participated in ASEA-UNINET projects to apply.
 - In his function as Chairman of the UN Commission for Science and Technology, education is prime for the SDG, Prof. A Min Tjoa is envisioning to present ASEA-UNINET as a role model to showcase how we can cooperate with regards to education and for the sake of the SDGs.
 - Austria is planning an ASEA-UNINET event in Thailand on November 16th, 2018 in Bangkok to strengthen the Austrian-Thai ASEA-UNINET community and build up an alumni network.
- **Czech Republic**
 - The government is currently reviewing the budget for universities, there is hope that international cooperation will become easier in the near future.
 - Want to focus on collaboration using Erasmus+
 - The Technical University of Liberec is a forerunner in
 - Nanotechnology – nanofibers, nanoparticles and nano-layers (Nanospider). Ongoing research: What happens to nanomaterial when they are out in the environment? E.g. “fear of society” - a lot of projects on sustainability of nano-technology production and its sustainability in the environment
 - Textile engineering
 - The ongoing cooperation between HUST and TUL was one of the reasons for TUL to join the network)
 - Also in Austria at (JKU) Comet program in the area of textiles, also in cooperation with a university of applied sciences. -> A joint project on the forefront of new materials would be a great cooperation opportunity (north-north-south)
 - Environmental remediation and protection e.g. platform for: waste water management – garbage dump – leak water management -> in everyday in urban

problems -> platform for exchange on nanomaterials and nanotechnology for environmental protection

- TUL will remain the national coordinator – a possible change must be discussed by all Czech member universities. Currently there is no foreseen new member from the Czech Republic.

- **Germany:**

- It would be interesting to collaborate with top ranked universities like e.g. RWTH Aachen University, TU München. In Germany there are many alternatives for funding of research program e.g. DAAD, German research council.
- At the University of Passau at the Department for Southeast Asian Studies currently a new form of teaching based on dialogue between science and art is tried out.
- Prof. Dr. Martina Padmanabhan was able to secure funding for a huge sustainability research project and is currently working in Indonesia.

- **Indonesia:**

- Dr. Indah Widyahening, Ph.D is the new ASEA-UNINET Coordinator for Universitas Indonesia and follows Prof. Melda as new National Coordinator for Indonesia.
- In December 2017, UI hosted the first ASEA-UNINET Students Week on Sustainable Development, an academic mobility program, designed for graduate students from ASEA-UNINET member universities. The short program had a duration of 2 weeks and students could earn 3 credits upon completion. The program consisted of in-class lectures, internship / field study, FGD and presentations as well as Indonesian Language and Cultural Sessions. In Total 35 students from 19 ASEA-UNINET universities participated.
- In addition, in December 2017, Universitas Indonesia hosted the first ASEA-UNINET Indonesian Chapter Workshop on Sustainable Development – a two-day workshop containing panel presentations aimed to give a platform for the coordinators from ASEA-UNINET member universities a possibility to exchange knowledge and discuss about Sustainable Development. In total 18 representatives from 8 universities participated.

- **Italy**

- Free University of Bolzano (unibz): In the first year of unibz membership in ASEA-UNINET one MoU with Universitas Indonesia and one exchange agreement with Chulalongkorn University have been finalized. Oswin Maurer will be in Bangkok at the end of June 2018 and will reach out to further universities.
- University of Genoa: received international students from member countries, and participated in several projects funded by the EU together with partners from ASEA-UNINET member countries.
- The University of Brescia: has an Erasmus KA2 UNBIS-HUST-Thuyloi University project proposal pending. Signed an MoU with Thammasat University in the area of Dentistry and medicine. Provided one Master scholarship in Telecommunication Technologies to a HUST BSc Student and received 3 PhD students from ASEA-UNINET member universities (University of the Philippines, Mahidol University, Chulalongkorn University) as well as 21 BSc and MSc students from Vietnam, Philippines and Thailand.
- The University of Brescia is currently running a seminar series on the individual SDGs and reached goal 9 so far (the talks are available online!)
- Politecnico de Milano: active bilateral agreements with (Institut Teknologi Bandung, Universitas Indonesia, University Putra Malaysia, Sharif University of Technology, Chulalongkorn University, Thammasat University, and the University of Danang). Participated in several recruiting fairs in Indonesia and Vietnam. Received delegation visits from

Thammasat and Chulalongkorn University and is planning to visit partner institutions in Ho Chi Minh City, Danang and Hanoi at the end of 2018.

- University of Trento: 9 bilateral agreements with ASEA UNINET Universities: University of Diponegoro, Mahidol University, University of the Philippines, Chulalongkorn University Burapha University, HUST, University of Transport and Communications, Hanoi University), 3 Erasmus+ ICM projects (International Credit Mobility) involving ASEA-UNINET universities. Student Mobility included 8 Undergraduate, 10 Master and 4 PhDs in 2016-2018 and staff mobility (2016-2018) included 15 academic staff and 3 administrative staff.
- Swap & Transfer Project (Erasmus Mundus 2013-2017).

- **Malaysia:**
 - Regular meetings of the six Malaysian member universities
 - Research visit of Dr. Birgit Hofreiter (TU Wien) to share knowledge and recommendations for building an innovation and entrepreneurship center at Universiti Utara Malaysia (UUM).
 - Research Visit of Dr. Risyawati Mohamed Ismail (UUM) to Austria
 - Visits of six Malaysian Researchers (1 from each member university) to Austria to build up cooperation projects between Austrian and Malaysian Researchers.
 - Planned ASEA-UNINET Sustainability issues Workshop in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on August 28th and 29th 2018 (see tentative schedule)

- **Myanmar:**
 - Pro-rector Dr. Tun Tun Aung is representing the rector of Mandalay University Dr. Thida Win
 - The University of Mandalay wants to intensify international cooperation especially in the areas of Natural Sciences and Life Sciences as in these areas joint collaborations and training are highly required.
 - The University of Mandalay is happy to welcome guest professors and lecturers at any time and is able to provide accommodation on campus (guesthouse) as well as facilities for hosting conferences and workshops in Myanmar.

- **Pakistan:**
 - Prof. Tjoa presented on behalf of Prof. Iqbal Choudhary
 - ASEA-Uninet to conduct the 1st Neurocritical care course for physicians in Pakistan, Prof. Dr. Erich Schmutzhard (Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria), has kindly agreed to conduct this course.
 - University of Karachi's International Center for Chemical and Biological Sciences (ICCBS) is seeking opportunities in the ASEA-UNINET network to increase skills of their staff in different departments through short-term training programs (IT, HR, Accounting and Finance, Laboratory staff, Engineers/Technicians, Administrators).
 - At the same time, ICCS will provide 5 short term scholarships (3-6) months to research scholars from ASEA-UNINET universities. The fields of research include natural products and analytical chemistry, organic synthesis, structural biology, stem cell research, computational and medicinal chemistry, and genomic. The scholarship will include on-campus furnished accommodation, waive of bench and supervision fee and a monthly scholarships of US \$ 200, as well as internal transportation.
 - ICCBs is organizing several conferences and participation of ASEA-UNINET member will be highly appreciated.
 - 3rd International Workshop entitled, "X-ray Crystallography in Structural biology" (September 6-8, 2018)
 - International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry for the Future (November 4-6, 2018)

- 14th International Symposium on Natural Product Chemistry (November 6-8, 2018)
- ANRAP 9th International Seminar entitled "From Plant to Patient: Identification of New Drugs for Metabolic Disorders" (January 25-27, 2019)
- **Philippines:**
 - Several Projects together with ASEA-UNINET partners, especially from Austria (University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences), Thailand Mahidol University, Kasetsart University, Chulalongkorn University and Malaysia (University Utara Malaysia).
 - Several visiting Professors and Researchers (PhD Fellowships, Post-doctoral fellowships, Seminars-Workshops, Research Fellowships, Ernst Mach Grant Recipients - EMG – Austria).
 - Participation of 2 UP representatives in the ASEA-UNINET Students Week at Universitas Indonesia in Jakarta, Indonesia.
 - Academic Partners of UP in Austria include: MCI Management Center Innsbruck, University of Applied Sciences Wiener Neustadt and University of Klagenfurt.
 - Perception of students: if I go to Europe, the courses may not be offered in English -> answer these hesitations with e.g. a promotion video of doing a PhD in Austria in English language.

Monday, June 18th, 2018 – DAY 2

- **Portugal**
 - The University of Porto has cooperation agreements with several member universities especially in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.
 - Moreover, the university is actively involved in a long list of projects funded by the European Union together with ASEA-UNINET member countries including Erasmus+ KAT- Capacity Building in Higher Education projects and the former Erasmus Mundus Action 2 presentations (for details please consult presentation slides).
 - Outgoing Mobility for 2016/17 and 2017/18 amounted to 125 persons and incoming mobilities to 156 persons.
 - In Portugal double degree (students receiving 2 diplomas) are forbidden since 2009 – joint degree (two universities jointly issuing one diploma) are possible
- **Thailand:**
 - ASEA-UNINET staff Exchange, 1-month scholarship (10 successful candidates out of 15 applicants), OHEC supports the round-trip ticket, Austria supports the living expenses, no tuition fees of Austrian host institutes
 - Music Grant under Ernst Mach Grant – ASEA-UNINET: 2 successful candidates out of 18 applicants. 9-months scholarship, including grant for living expenses and travelling costs.
 - English quality problem during interviews for the Ernst-Mach Grant ASEA-UNINET. Previously applicants needed to pass the in-house English exam performed by OHEC, however this is not possible anymore since the applications are handled via the online application system of OeAD.
 - Guest Professor from University of Vienna, Prof. Friedrich Wallner, visited Mahidol University in February 2018.
 - **Suggestion to contact: Thailand Research Fund (TRF).** ASEA-UNINET would have to reach out to them: <https://www.trf.or.th/eng/>

- **Vietnam:**

- Besides several exchange activities a joint Workshop ASEA-UNINET, DAAD and HUST, on the topic of Industry 4.0 – Current Trends and Strategies took place in November 2017 in Hanoi and the joint workshop Future Data and Security Engineering 2017 in HCM city.
- Joint projects, Erasmus + projects between Austrian, Italian and Vietnamese members in different fields: IT, Bio and Food Technology, Medicine and Pharmacy, Music (HAIVAN, Water Treatment, etc.)
- Visits of delegation of President/Vice-President of Vietnamese members to Austria in 2017 and also planned for 2018.
- Scholarship program Ernst Mach Grant, SP 24, for PhD. students, staff exchange, post-doc.
- Exchange activities between Vietnamese members and ASEAN members
- Short course for student, i.e. summer program between Austrian and Vietnamese members.
- ASEA UNINET cooperation between Hanoi Academic of Theatre and Cinemat (HATC) and the University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (MDW - Austria). Prof. Beverly Blankensip and Prof. Anna Mag.art Krassnigg have held workshops and supervised the acting students from Department of Drama, HATC to perform 2 acts of “Romeo and Juliet” in March and April, 2018. At the end of the course, on 20/4/2018, Prof. Anna Mag.art Krassnigg has conducted her presentation to instruct acting students to perform act 2 and 3 of “Romeo and Juliet” play at HATC. The performance was attended by Mr. Christian Vlazny - Deputy Ambassador of Austrian Embassy in Vietnam, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huynh Quyet Thang - President of ASEA UNINET and A. Prof. Dr. Ngo Chi Trung - National coordinator of ASEA UNINET.
- The 911 scholarship program has officially ended. MOET Vietnam will submit new program.
- Strong wish of several member universities to accept VNU – Hanoi as a new member institution.

Discussion about new mission statement

General Idea to update the existing mission statement of ASEA-UNINET.

- General agreement to include innovation and sustainability and to emphasize the connection of research and sustainability
- 3 part structure: Vision – Mission – Decision / Aims
- The mission part should be much shorter
- The term “The sustainable development goals (SDG)” should be put in the mission statement not only “sustainability” because there are different meanings of this term
- Gabriele, Farizal and Gamantyo will prepare a draft version until the end of August and will send it by email to everyone for discussion and further inputs.
- The updated statement should be ready at the end of 2018.

Malaysia: Workshop on August 28th + 29th 2018

- The tentative program of the workshop on August 28th and 29th is ready
- Invitations shall be sent out shortly
- Invite: Weena Gera, Dietmar Haltrich
- Goal a publication / position papers of ASEA-UNINET scholars on several SDG related topics
- 3 breakout sessions, according to 3 sustainability pillars and in world café setting

Plenary 2019:

- Will take place from February 22nd to 25th, 2019 in Danang, Vietnam. (Arrival Day: February 21st, Departure: February 26th) (see preliminary program)
- Invite also Alumni, and government and embassy representatives
- A “save-the-date” email shall be sent out soon, official invitations and more details will follow in autumn 2019.

Miscellaneous topics:

- Standard form for reporting (e.g. of National Coordinators) to improve visibility e.g. with authorities in the form of a google document. A first draft is available at:
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1DaPVPYyYxSdAvnqCPfIMR6qcx8UEYpMR74MQv0MK3UM/edit>
- Gabriele, Farizal and Gamantyo will continue discussion on the individual columns and will prepare a table that should be filled in by everyone before the next plenary meeting.
 - o Incoming / outgoing mobilities (students, staff)
 - o Visits of people that came to the university
 - o Projects that are developing and projects that we foresee of being of interest.
 - o Research projects that have been finished (projects that have been financed every year)

General Discussion points / What is needed? / What (activities) should be expanded?

- Strengthening Erasmus+ applications also between European partners
- Better ALUMNI tracking, alumni network database and empowering Alumni to contribute and promote upcoming research / activities (Planned Action by Austrian Division: November 16th, 2018 Event in Bangkok, Thailand to strengthen coordinator and the alumni community). Alumni should become mentors and spokespersons for the network and should
- More forums are needed to initiate cooperative activities. Often it is difficult to find partners with similar interests.
- Some of the cooperation that has been established previously has not had a continuation in the long run.
- Inviting and sending more professors
- Develop research cooperation to answer SDGs
- Student mobility (double degree or joint degree for post graduate)
- Entrepreneurship
- Workshops, conferences and other scientific forums
- Credit Transfer program
- Database or mapping of information on (1) professors and their field to connect related professors from member universities, (2) on research projects and (3) publications.
- Web presence and website (show outputs the association is producing, provide useful links)
- Require national representatives to present their reports before meetings
- Expand teaching in English in order to improve technical education and reciprocal cultural awareness
- Increase information about existing cooperation and prospects of expanding them
- The role of ASEA-UNINET university coordinators is essential. ASEA-UNINET is a research-oriented network thus coordinators should be professors (with habilitation). Moreover to build up long lasting relationships it is important that coordinators are appointed for a longer timeframe and thus the appointment of a coordinator should not change e.g. with the

position of a vice-president etc. **Recommendation to appoint persons who have experience with ASEA-UNINET as University Coordinators and to keep them for a longer timeframe in office. Also for the National Coordinator, continuity is very important.**

- Better Targeting / and branding of the network e.g. with regards to potential scholarship applicants: targeting researchers and PhDs. Idea to use e.g. QR-codes for branding purposes vis-à-vis students or AVPs (Audio Visual Presentations) such as an Promotion Video about doing a PhD in Austria in English Language, or MOOCs.

Topics for Plenary Meeting 2019 (suggestions from presentations and discussion):

- Alumni Network database
- How to cope with different academic cultures within the network? E.g. External influences on the academic process (governmental, religion...)
- Addressing more SDGs related topic
 - Sustainable Maritime Tourism, Sustainable Water Management, Sustainable coasts and oceans
 - Environment climate and energy
 - In accordance with the Indonesian National Master Plan (RIN) such as food security, health, energy and water, disaster management, and smart farming.
 - Aging Population (health, technology, environment)
 - Medicine
 - Social, Arts, and Humanities
 - Biotechnology
 - Highlight interdisciplinary and trans-disciplinary potential for research and projects
- Increase-improve moments of area-interest definition and encounters (target and list them before meetings; suggest specific meetings based on different optics and have people sign up for them before meetings)
- The development of green campus in the digital era
- Acceleration of Conservation and Preservation Activities on Environment and Disaster Management
- Rapid Development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and its effects on Human Society
- Ethno-musicology (UP has now a center for ethno-musicology)
- Water management workshop SDG 14: “Life Below Water” (UP, ITS, Water Management at TUL, BOKU, UI)
- Implementation of double and joint degrees: areas of interest and the way to improve the cooperation
- Opportunities under the financial schemes available in EU and in Asia