



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BRESCIA



8th September 2025

Time 14:30-17:00 (CEST)

Rectorate Building, Sala Consiliare | University of Brescia, Italy

ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' (NC) Meeting 2025

MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS

16 Participants

EXECUTIVES

- Prof. **Roberto Ranzi**, PhD, ASEA-UNINET President (Italy)
- Univ.-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)
- Univ.-Prof. **A Min Tjoa**, Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for Europe (Austria)
- 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. **Oum Ravy** (Cambodia)
- Ir. **Muhammad Iqbal Djawad**, MSc, PhD (Indonesia)
- Prof. **Alessandro Capra** (Italy)
- **Leo DP Cubillan**, MD, MPH (Philippines)
- Dr. **Mullika Sungsanit** (Thailand)
- Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung** (Vietnam)

GUESTS (in alphabetical order of country)

- **Eva Anggraini**, IPB University (Indonesia)
- Prof. Dr. Gamantyo **Hendrantoro**, Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (Indonesia)
- Asst. Prof. **Worakanya Buranaphatthana**, DDS, PhD, Chiang Mai University (Thailand)

ASEA-UNINET STAFF (Austria)

- **Barbara Karahan**, BA BA MA (ASEA-UNINET Network Office)
- **Christoph Wayu Niederhauser**, MSc (ASEA-UNINET Network Office)

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening
2. Programme of the 20th Plenary Meeting
3. Prospective New Member Institutions
4. Members Not Confirmed
5. New Executive Members
6. ASEA-UNINET Alumni
7. Publications and Projects
8. Next NC Meeting
9. Further Topics and Meeting Closure

1. Welcome and Opening

Ranzi extends a warm welcome to all participants who arrived at UNIBS and in Italy. **Ranzi** opens the National Coordinators' Meeting (NC Meeting) and presents the agenda, as listed above, as topics proposed by the ASEA-UNINET Executives and National Coordinators (NCs).

2. Programme of the 20th Plenary Meeting

The [programme of the 20th Plenary Meeting](#) is reviewed. In the Opening Day, the thematic focus of the event on peace and sustainable development is highlighted as illustrated by the keynote speeches in the first half of the day and the working groups in the afternoon. The speaker order as listed in the programme and acknowledgments is confirmed. The working groups are reviewed, and group leads with one ASEAN and one European lead per working group are confirmed. On Day 2, the funding programme contributions are reviewed, and a reminder is issued that the [Country Coordinator Reports](#) are planned to take place in a world café format. The submitted reports are shared with participants via QR-code. Finally, all social programme points for the entire week are presented.

3. Prospective New Member Institutions

As suggested in the previous NC Meeting in Bali in February 2025, the following institutions are nominated for membership for further consideration at the ASEA-UNINET elections to be held on Day 3 of the Plenary Meeting. These include institutions that are seeking to become members of ASEA-UNINET as Candidate Members, as well as institutions that currently hold Candidate Member status and are recommended to become Full Members based on active cooperations within the network. If elected, the new membership status comes into effect following the successful vote.

Nominations for Candidate Membership:

- KH: Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)
- CZ: Palacký University Olomouc (UP)
- IT: University of Torino (UniTo)
- MY: Universiti Sultan Zainal Abidin (UniSZA)
- RO: Transilvania University of Brasov (UniTBV)
- RO: Western University of Timișoara (UVT)
- TH: Princess Galyani Vadhana Institute of Music (PGVIM)
- TL: Universidade Nacional Timor Lorosa'e (UNTL)

Nominations for Full Membership:

- AT: University of Arts Linz
- ID: Universitas Padjadjaran (UNPAD)
- TH: Vidyasirimedhi Institute of Science and Technology (VISTEC)
- TH: Walailak University (WU)
- VN: Posts and Telecommunications Institute of Technology (PTIT)

The participants vote unanimously in favour of the listed nominations.

Due to time constraints in the programme, the institutions seeking Candidate Membership are asked to give a brief presentation on Day 3 of up to 10 minutes. Furthermore, although a presentation by a representative is usually required, an exception is made for ITC to present virtually under the condition, provided successful election, to participate in the next Plenary Meeting in person. For the institutions seeking Full Membership, **Ranzi** suggests NCs to share a recommendation to the plenary delegates instead of delivering a formal presentation. The presentations prepared will, however, be included in the Plenary Meeting Minutes.

Regarding future membership, a reminder from the previous NC Meeting is discussed on the following points:

- i. For Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam, the number of members should be kept at the current level.
- ii. For new member countries, the potential acceptance of candidate members will be decided within the context of scheduled NC Meetings.
- iii. A new membership request should have the recommendation of the National Coordinator.

4. Members Not Confirmed

As decided in the previous NC Meeting, the following institutions will no longer retain their membership within the network given inactivity over a longer period, as well as the condition of participation in this Plenary Meeting not being met. These institutions will receive an official notice from the ASEA-UNINET Network Office issued by the incoming President of the network.

- IR: Sharif University of Technology (SUT)
- IR: Shiraz University
- IR: University of Tehran (UT)
- LA: National University of Laos

The participants vote unanimously in favour of the proposed resolution.

For the Vietnam National University, Hanoi (VNU), **Trung** proposed to re-active contact given a recent change in leadership at VNU. An update will be shared at the next NC Meeting, and **Trung** will inform the ASEA-UNINET Network Office of any new contact person(s).

Given the membership of the National University of Laos being revoked and thus the representation of Laos missing within the network, **Ranzi** expresses a wish to include Laos in the near future again. **Sungsanit** suggests to consider prospective new members in Laos based on their activity with members within the network, particularly with Thai members. **Obenaus** recommends revisiting this topic strategically at the next NC Meeting with consideration of further input from Thai partners and other NCs. **Sungsanit** offers to discuss the topic further with Thai university coordinators in the meantime.

The participants agree on the recommendations made regarding VNU and Laos representation.

5. New Executive Members

The participants suggest nominating **Sungsanit** as the new President of ASEA-UNINET, following the recommendation made previously at the NC Meeting in Bali in February. **Sungsanit** accepts the nomination and shares that she sees great benefit in the network, not only in strengthening collaboration between Thailand and Austria, but also among other member countries and within the network's own community.

The President commits to organising the upcoming Plenary Meeting with the support of the Network Office.

For the Regional Vice Presidents, the following nominations are made:

- **Farizal**, current Vice President for Southeast Asia, proposes **Hendrantoro** to be elected as his successor.
- **Obenaus**, current Vice President for Europe, proposes **Kotsis** to be elected as his successor.

Both nominations are accepted by the members.

The creation of additional Executive roles is proposed by **Kotsis**:

- **Past President** (automatic nomination of **Ranzi**) – a role to support the incoming President
- Coordinator for Scholarships & Finances (nomination of **Obenaus**) – a role within the **Strategic Advisory Team** dedicated towards securing financial support for the network and its activities. **Ranzi** adds that this role aims to harmonise new funding programmes, including those beyond the current Austrian funding schemes.

The participants vote unanimously in favour of the nominations made and the addition of the proposed Executive roles.

6. ASEA-UNINET Alumni

Sungsanit reports that the Coordinator for Alumni Affairs, Prof. Thakerng **Wongsirichot** (Prince of Songkla University), organised an alumni meeting in Bangkok earlier in the spring. **Wongsirichot** has organised three meetings on this topic in Thailand. This includes the facilitation of an ASEA-UNINET Alumni participation event in the MHESI Fair: Sci Power for Future Thailand, held from 9–17 August 2025, to promote and disseminate information about ASEA-UNINET. **Wongsirichot** will continue to explore further topics concerning the engagement of ASEA-UNINET alumni. Further information can be accessed in the Thai [Country Coordinator Report](#).

Ranzi asks about the current state of data relating to ASEA-UNINET alumni. **Niederhauser** answers that the OeAD collects data on ASEA-UNINET alumni who have received funding for Austria related funding programmes. The OeAD.map is the current public access database tool and includes information on recipients of ASEA-UNINET Project Funding; however, it does not include data on all recipients of ASEA-UNINET related grants, as the tool requires an opt-in by grant recipients.

Participants discuss what tools could be used in the future to record data for ASEA-UNINET alumni, not only from Austria related funding programmes but also those of others outside of Austria. **Kotsis** shares that she created a Google Form template for this prior to the pandemic to collect such data, but which did not end up being used due to the introduction of the OeAD.map. Further exchange with **Wongsirichot** will be necessary to advance the ideas discussed, and **Ranzi** asks **Kotsis** to share the Google Form template she had previously created.

7. Publications and Projects

Kotsis proposes to focus on enhancing the alumni and publication sections of the ASEA-UNINET homepage to highlight the network's appeal and shares that she was in exchange with the ASEA-UNINET Network Office previously on this topic. She suggests adding information on publications and/or projects on the "Projects" page of the ASEA-UNINET homepage and proposes to discern how members can best relay such information to the Network Office. **Niederhauser** suggests a virtual form to this end. The timeline of implementation would be roughly one year from the time of the NC Meeting (i.e., fall of 2026).

8. Next NC Meeting

For the next NC Meeting, which typically takes place ca. 6 months prior to the next scheduled Plenary Meeting, **Kotsis** suggests asking the Paris Lodron University Salzburg (PLUS) to host the NC Meeting in the fall of 2026 given that the last NC Meeting took place in South-East Asia and that the next would be held in Europe.

The participants agree on the suggestion made, and Kotsis will reach out to University Coordinator of PLUS and inform the participants of the outcome.

9. Further Agenda Topics and Meeting Closure

i. Strategic Considerations regarding the Addition of New Members to the Network

Ranzi and **Tjoa** report having conducted initial discussions in Singapore. With the presidency now designated to move to South-East Asia, members note that it may be timely to revisit the prospect of engaging a leading university in Singapore for potential membership in the network.

Iqbal reports being in contact with the former Ambassador to Brunei and will facilitate a connection with the **University of Darussalam**.

Obenaus summarises from the previous Plenary Meeting in Penang in 2024 that ASEAN partners expressed strong interest in the inclusion of further German universities in the network. **Kotsis** indicates interest in exploring potential partnerships with universities in Munich. **Obenaus** suggests that the incoming Vice President for Europe advance this topic and proactively prepare recommendations for the next NC Meeting.

Roberto supports the proposed member expansion within Europe and recommends approaching German universities as potential new European members. **Kotsis** proposes starting with two universities in Munich as pilot partners and potentially inviting them to the next NC Meeting, planned to take place in Salzburg, to encourage their participation in the network.

Tjoa adds the University of Konstanz and the University of Freiburg as further potential new members, noting that Freiburg has already expressed prior interest. **Kotsis** proposes initiating a joining request with universities in Munich as a first step, while then potentially approaching the universities suggested by **Tjoa**.

Roberto notes that new European members should be expected to provide some funding support for ASEAN activities, following the model of the [Italian regional scholarships](#).

Participants agree to the strategic considerations given and to Kotsis' proposal regarding prospective German universities.

Meeting Minutes by ASEA-UNINET Network Office

APPENDIX:

[NC Meeting Agenda](#)

[Programme of the Plenary Meeting 2025](#)

[Country Coordinator Reports 2025](#)

[Scholarship/Grant Declaration Form](#)

[Change of Contact Form](#)

NC Meeting Photos



©ASEA-UNINET/UNIBS