



7th-8th July 2026

Time 14:30-17:00 (CEST)

Room HS 331(Ground Floor) | Sigmund-Haffner Gasse 18 | University of Salzburg, Austria

ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators' (NC) Meeting 2026

MINUTES

PARTICIPANTS

15 Participants

EXECUTIVES

- Dr. **Mullika Sungsanit**, ASEA-UNINET President (Thailand)
- Prof. **Roberto Ranzi**, PhD, ASEA-UNINET Past President (Italy)
- Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Gabriele Kotsis**, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for Europe (Austria)
- Prof. Dr. **Gamantyo Hendranto**, ASEA-UNINET Vice President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia (Indonesia)
- Univ.-Prof. **A Min Tjoa**, Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for Europe (Austria)

NATIONAL COORDINATORS (in alphabetical order of country)

- Dr. **Oum Ravy**, Royal University of Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
- **Eva Anggraini**, IPB University, Vice National Coordinator (Indonesia)
- Asst. Prof. **Worakanya Buranaphatthana**, DDS, PhD, Chiang Mai University (Thailand)

GUESTS (in alphabetical order of country)

- Rektor Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Bernhard Fügenschuh**, University of Salzburg (Austria)
- Univ.-Prof.in Dr.in **Tanja Bühner**, University of Salzburg (Austria)
- **Peter Mayr**, MA, University of Salzburg (Austria)
- **Ham Kakada**, Royal University of Phnom Penh (Cambodia)
- Assist. Prof. Dr. **Alfred Gerstl**, Palacký University Olomouc (Czechia)
- **Gino Angelo M. Velasco**, Dr. rer. nat., University of the Philippines (Philippines)

ASEA-UNINET STAFF (Austria)

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

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening
2. Preparations for 21st Plenary Meeting
3. Prospective New Member Institutions
4. Future of the Network in Times of Increasing Demand and Decreasing Funding
5. Use of AI in Education & Research
6. ASEA-UNINET Alumni
7. Update: Publications and Projects
8. Next NC Meeting
9. Further Topics, Group Photo and Meeting Closure
 - i. Request for Updated Umbrella Agreements
 - ii. Membership Fees (pending payments)

1. Welcome and Opening

Sungsanit, President of ASEA-UNINET, extends a warm welcome to all participants who arrived at the University of Salzburg and in Austria.

The participants are further welcomed by the University of Salzburg as the hosting institution of the NC Meeting: **Bührer**, ASEA-UNINET Coordinator at the University of Salzburg, describes the ASEAN region as one with diverse perspectives and epistemologies where knowledge transcends boundaries and partners are united by a shared commitment. **Mayr**, ASEA-UNINET Deputy Coordinator at the University of Salzburg, adds to these remarks by welcoming all participants to Salzburg – a city with a rich and longstanding history. **Fügenschuh** welcomes participants to the University of Salzburg, which – much like ASEA-UNINET – places a strong emphasis on internationalisation of education, research and academic cooperation. While research lays the foundation for many of the participants' everyday tasks, he reflects on teaching as the primary aim of education and underlines the importance of both.

Sungsanit 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. Preparations for 21st Plenary Meeting

The [preliminary programme of the 21st Plenary Meeting](#) is reviewed. **Sungsanit** presents the proposed theme of the Plenary Meeting, *Co-Creating Sustainable Futures: Biodiversity, Climate Action, and Resilient Societies*, in the context of the current focus of many ASEAN countries.

Transportation from the Bangkok Suvarnabhumi Airport to the venue (Hotel Labaris in Khaoyai) will be provided for Sunday (14th February 2027) and Monday (15th February 2027). To this end, the online registration form will be adapted and ask participants to indicate their tentative plan of arrival and list the planned pick-up options. Monday (15th February 2027) will host the NC Meeting prior to the Plenary Meeting, open to Executives and NCs, as well as a cocktail reception in the evening open to all participants.

On Tuesday (16th February 2027) as the first programmatic day of the Plenary Meeting, various opening remarks will be held in the Opening Ceremony, followed by an exploration of the thematic focus of the event throughout the following keynote addresses. **Sungsanit** asks all NCs to invite relevant diplomatic persons (e.g., Ambassadors) for which **Sungsanit** can issue formal invitation letters as President of ASEA-UNINET. **Tjoa** suggests an EU delegation in Thailand for the EU keynote address. **Sungsanit**

appeals for the Country Coordinators' Exchange (previously Country Coordinators' Reports) to be held in a world café format and explains that individual tables will be allocated for each country that may be visited by interested partners. While NCs will still be required to prepare their written reports using the ASEA-UNINET presentation template, these will not be presented live and, instead, be made available digitally beforehand and on-site via QR-code. In contrast to the presentation of reports in which past developments are highlighted, the contribution by NCs at the world café should be conveyed in exchange with interested participants and oriented towards future collaboration content. **Velasco** suggests that NCs include information on concrete funding schemes applicable to the country in question. **Niederhauser** adds to this suggestion by recommending a dedicated table for participants with expertise on broader funding programmes (e.g., Erasmus+, Horizon Europe, etc.). NCs are expected to bring relevant print material and let the ASEA-UNINET Network Office know if they will be planning a poster.

On Wednesday (17th February 2027), the participants will be changing venue to Suranaree University of Technology (SUT) where the theme of the Plenary Meeting will be further explored in working group sessions and a SUT site visit including a research showcase. **Sungsanit** explains that the working group themes build upon the themes from the previous Plenary Meeting and are designed to be more outcome oriented. Ideally, a research cooperation would be the outcome of each working group. To this end, the participants discuss how the working groups can be made more impactful. **Buranaphatthana** explains that for Thailand, they asked each university to nominate research experts for each working group topic. As a result, Thailand now has 1-2 researchers for each working group topic. **Tjoa** suggests adopting a similar approach with more countries to discern thematic coordinators more easily. **The suggestion of virtual working groups prior to the Plenary Meeting is made and agreed upon, by which NCs should nominate applicable researchers by October/November 2026 so that the working groups may be finalised by December 2026.** Furthermore, it would be ideal to identify a thematic coordinator in each working group for the purpose of following up on the outcome of the working group. **Kotsis** offers to send **Sungsanit** a draft e-mail which the ASEA-UNINET Network Office will further share with all **NCs who will be invited to identify 2-3 researcher experts per working group topic;** to this end, **Kotsis** will create five GoogleDocs (one for each working group) in which NCs are asked to list the names and e-mail addresses of the research experts.

On Thursday (18th February 2027), current Candidate Members seeking Full Membership status will be asked to present themselves using a template provided by the ASEA-UNINET Network Office. Likewise, prospective members seeking to obtain Candidate Membership status will be asked to present themselves using a template provided by the ASEA-UNINET Network Office. Further information on the respective procedures is listed under Agenda topic 3. Following the members' presentations, the Bernd Rode Award will be presented. In addition to the Plenary Summary and Governance session in the afternoon, the possibility of including input by economic delegates (e.g., WKO – the Austrian Chamber of Commerce) is explored. **Kotsis** will contact the WKO Bangkok and enquire regarding their participation for either Thursday and/or Tuesday. **Kotsis** will contact the WKO Bangkok and enquire regarding their participation for either Thursday and/or Tuesday. The following amendment to the preliminary programme is suggested:

- 09:00 – 10:30: Presentation of New Universities Seeking Membership
- Prior to Bernd Rode Award: Session with PMU-B/WKO/OeAD with a 15 minute slot each (see agenda item 3.)
- 11:00 – 12:00: Bernd Rode Award

3. Prospective New Member Institutions

A review of the current Candidate Members is made based on activity reports shared. The following Candidate Members are recommended for Full Membership, following a successful vote at the next Plenary Meeting.

Nominations for Full 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)

A presentation given in person at the Plenary Meeting by a representative of each respective university will be required for consideration to obtain Full Membership. The presentations should be no longer than 5-10 minutes each and they should use a template provided by the ASEA-UNINET Network Office. The presentation should not be an institutional presentation but, instead, focus on established and planned cooperations within the network (e.g., co-publications, MoUs, research collaboration agreements, curricular collaborations, student/teaching/staff mobilities, etc.).

An update on prospective new member institutions is given in the following as listed by individual country:

BN: No further contact through Ir. **Muhammad Iqbal Djawad**, MSc, PhD with Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD) has occurred since the previous NC Meeting. **Tjoa** notes that the EU ASEAN cooperation interests through Brunei Darussalam could be an enabler for membership considerations. **Buranaphatthana** has contacts to the Vice Rector of UBD and will coordinate a follow-up with **Djawad** on their interest in joining the network.

DE: **Kotsis** reports on ongoing talks with Ludwig-Maximilians University Munich (LMU), and **Ranzi** adds that he was in talks with the LMU Vice Rector for International Affairs. Kotsis will follow up with LMU. If they are interested in joining the network, an invitation to the Plenary Meeting may be issued. Otherwise, **Kotsis** recommends exploring a membership with a technical university in Germany.

PH: **Velasco** shares a recommendation for two universities in the southern province of Mindanao for which a respective letter of joining request was shared previously (see Appendix).

PK: A membership request was shared on behalf of the University of Lahore (UOL). While the university is one of Pakistan's top-rated universities, the membership policy of the network currently only permits private university membership in Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam. As such, the membership request is not accepted.

MY: A membership request was shared on behalf of the International Islamic University Malaysia (IIUM). As per the decision made at the NC Meeting in Bali in February 2025, the number of member institutions should be kept at the current level for Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam. As such, the membership request is not accepted.

SG: **Kotsis** shares that on behalf of the Medical University of Graz (Med Uni Graz), a request has been made to include the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the National University of Singapore (NUS) in ASEA-UNINET. **Tjoa** and **Hendrantoro** confirm ongoing cooperations between these

universities and member universities within the network. **Kotsis** will enquire through the Med Uni Graz while **Hendrantoro** will get in touch with NTU in parallel. If either or both universities are interested and issue a letter of joining request, an invitation to the Plenary Meeting may be issued.

VN: A membership request was shared on behalf of the Electric Power University (EPU). As per the decision made at the NC Meeting in Bali in February 2025, the number of member institutions should be kept at the current level for Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam.

The participants vote unanimously in favour of the following nominations:

- PH: Mindanao State University–Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)
- PH: University of Science and Technology of Southern Philippines (USTP)

A presentation given in person at the Plenary Meeting by a representative of each respective university will be required for consideration to obtain Candidate Membership. The presentations should be no longer than 10 minutes each and they should use a template provided by the ASEA-UNINET Network Office. The presentation is a brief institutional presentation that should also focus on research excellence, including research focus areas and previous and/or planned cooperations with current members within ASEA-UNINET.

4. Future of the Network in Times of Increasing Demand and Decreasing Funding

Kotsis opens the agenda item on the future of the network by reflecting on recent developments on the ASEA-UNINET Project Funding. Since the last call, funding from the Austrian side has allowed for one-year or alternatively two-year projects, however, the budget has remained the same and thereby does not meet the increased demand. With ongoing budgetary challenges in Austria, the network, **Kotsis** argues, needs to diversify its funding programmes.

With newer network members introducing supplementary funding schemes to the network, future partners should similarly contribute to the diversification of funding programmes. For the current ASEA-UNINET Project Funding, another potential model could be for only Outgoings (researchers from Austrian to ASEAN) to be funded, whereby partners would be asked to secure further funding for Incomings (from ASEAN to Austria).

Ranzi and **Tjoa** add to these suggestions by recommending that ASEA-UNINET secure funding at higher level EU funding programmes. The network needs to consider the quality of the research being done, which relates to the research output and communication therefore (e.g, how the research output relates to SDGs) as explicated in agenda item 5.

Sungsanit shares on the PMU-B funding, a programme management unit in Thailand for human resources and institutional development, research and innovation which provides competitive grants to researchers, universities, and institutions. ASEA-UNINET could enquire with PMU-B for related research funding, such as in deep tech research areas. **Kotsis** suggests inviting them to the Plenary Meeting and notes that this could be a good match for the WKO participation.

5. Assessing & Promoting Impact of Network

Kotsis identifies a need for promoting the visibility of the network further. Publications are an example of this, whereby researchers from ASEA-UNINET member universities should list the network in its acknowledgements. The following wording is recommended and will be listed on the ASEA-UNINET

homepage for further guidance: “The [research project] was supported by a grant from the [funding body] in cooperation with ASEA-UNINET as part of the [grant programme] received.”

Alumni also remain a focus in the area of promoting the visibility of the network. While ASEA-UNINET is not able to have a wholistic overview of all its alumni across its various affiliated funding programmes, it is important to share success stories of alumni which the ASEA-UNINET Network Office may support in promoting. The recommendation is made to introduce a “feature series” on the ASEA-UNINET homepage, starting with one feature per month and leading to, ideally, one feature per week. **NCs are tasked with sharing recommendations for feature graduates of ASEA-UNINET regularly with the Network Office, which in turn will publish an article on the ASEA-UNINET homepage.**

A further recommendation is made by **Kotsis** to curate a digital trail that is connected to ASEA-UNINET on platforms and websites used. An example of this is listing “ASEA-UNINET Coordinator” on a LinkedIn profile or on a university website. **Sungsanit** adds to this by recommending the use of tags and hashtags on social media (e.g., #asea-uninet). NCs are asked to share these recommendations proactively with their coordinators.

On the topic of social media, **Tjoa** enquires about the LinkedIn account of ASEA-UNINET, which was created some years ago and is currently inactive. **Niederhauser** confirms that the ASEA-UNINET Network Office does not have access to it but will further investigate if access information to the account is available.

Finally, **Kotsis** displays a map of her own publications that was generated through AI. She tasked AI with creating a map of all publications relating to **Kotsis** and ASEA-UNINET. She emphasises the importance of AI tools to promote visibility of the network.

The participants agree unanimously in favour of the proposed initiatives.

6. Use of AI in Education & Research

Kotsis opens a discussion on the use of generative AI in education and research, and she explains that in recent years exams were administered through Moodle using a mix of formats. However, with the recent developments in AI this poses challenges as exemplified by the example of a browser plugin that enables the answering of Moodle exam questions through AI. Participants exchange experiences on approaches towards examinations, particularly regarding exam design and assessment.

Gerstl notes that the EU is actively promoting the ethical use of AI in education and research and that he is currently involved in an Erasmus+ project for a Master course design that focusses not only on content but moreover navigation skills with AI. Results from this project could be shared in the Plenary Meeting planned for late 2028. Due to the recent developments in generative AI, **Sungsanit** has shifted away from content-based delivery towards the introduction of methods and navigation tools. As a result, she is currently exploring alternative ways of assessing. **Kakada** reports on clear policies on the use of AI with partners in Singapore. Moreover, the National University of Singapore (NUS) offers new courses such as on AI education.

7. ASEA-UNINET Alumni

Sungsanit reports that the Coordinator for Alumni Affairs) on the ASEA-UNINET Strategic Advisory Board, Prof. Thakerng **Wongsirichot** (Prince of Songkla University), is setting up a form to collect data from Thai ASEA-UNINET alumni. Currently, legal enquiries concerning data protection are underway, and once the form is in use, the collected data may be used to showcase alumni and display points of

contacts for networking purposes. **Thakerng** is also in the process of organising a follow-up alumni event in Thailand to build upon the previous one.

Participants agree to invite Thakerng to the next NC Meeting to present on developments in the area of alumni affairs. For the NC Meeting, the agenda items 5. and 7. will be combined into one item.

8. Update: Publications and Projects

Following the last NC Meeting, it was proposed to enable researchers within the network to share publications on the ASEA-UNINET homepage. While the ASEA-UNINET Network Office provided a template to collect the necessary information needed to share such publications, **Kotsis** prefers an automated method by which researchers would not be required to complete a form. **Kotsis proposes to task her students in the fall to programme a tool that can automate this process for publications related to ASEA-UNINET.**

9. Next NC Meeting

The next NC Meeting is scheduled to take place on 15th February 2027, from 14:00 until 16:30, as part of the Plenary Meeting programme.

10. Further Agenda Topics and Meeting Closure

i. Request for Updated Umbrella Agreements

According to the Umbrella Agreement, agreements are to be renewed every three years. **Kotsis** proposes a confirmation of the renewal as part of the Plenary Meeting under the programme point “Plenary Summary and Governance Session”.

Participants agree to the suggestion made by Kotsis.

ii. Membership Fees (pending payments)

Kotsis asks participants if they are in contact with the Czech Technical University in Prague (CTU), as the membership payment for CTU is still outstanding. **Tjoa** has active contacts and will further coordinate with **Kotsis**. **Kotsis** also addresses two outstanding payments by Vietnamese member institutions and will be in further contact with Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Ngô Chi Trung**.

Meeting Minutes by ASEA-UNINET Network Office

APPENDIX:

[NC Meeting Agenda](#)

[Preliminary Programme of the Plenary Meeting 2027](#)

[Accommodation Information Plenary Meeting 2027](#)

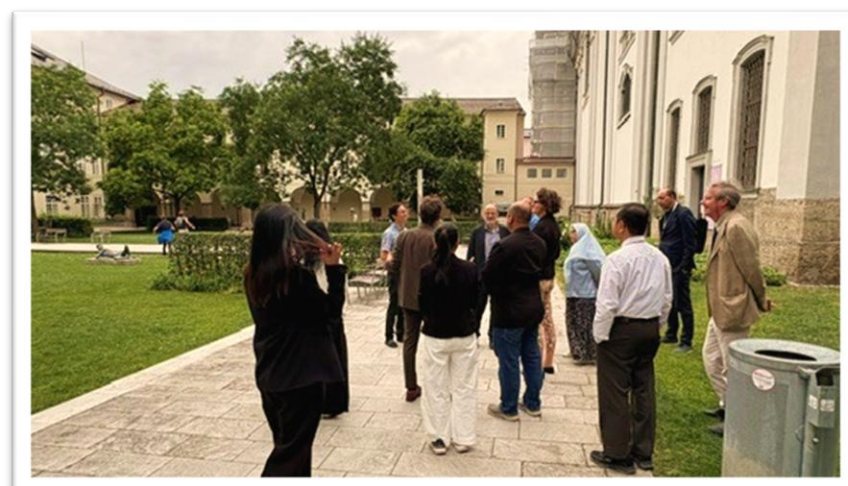
[Letter of Joining Request: MSU-IIT](#)

[Letter of Joining Request: USTP](#)

[Scholarship/Grant Declaration Form](#)

[Change of Contact Form](#)

NC Meeting Photos



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