



ASEAN European Academic University Network (ASEA-UNINET)

18th Plenary Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday-Friday, July 26th-29th 2022
held at the Johannes Kepler University Linz in Linz, Austria

under the patronage of

Mag. Thomas Stelzer
Governor of the Province of Upper Austria

Klaus Luger
Mayor of Linz

Prof. Dr. Meinhard Lukas
Rector of the Johannes Kepler University Linz

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Kotsis
ASEA-UNINET President

Appendices:

- A) List of Participants
- B) Full Programme of the Plenary Meeting (incl. Social Programme)
- C) Keynote Speaker Research Abstract
- D) Country Coordinator Reports
- E) Presentations of New Universities Seeking Membership Status
- F) Bernd Rode Award Presentations

Opening Ceremony*

Kotsis as President of ASEA-UNINET delivers welcome address and thanks for the support of City of Linz and the Province of Upper Austria, as well as the JKU. **Kotsis** delivers warm welcome on behalf of ASEA-UNINET Honorary President, **Rode**, and welcomes the ASEA-UNINET Executives and all other participants and introduces the Plenary Meeting programme.

Gera in her keynote speech takes stock of the global imperative: “Clean energy transition holds the key to tackling climate crisis”. The following question is explored: how can effective energy transition be fostered? Discourses on energy digitalization and on ‘*exnovation*’ are explored, and initiatives focused on innovation and integration are presented. The research abstract can be found in the Appendices.

Plenary Session

Kotsis welcomes Ambassadors in attendance and expresses gratitude for the support of the Embassies, and highlights the partnership with the Austrian Ministry for Education, Science and Research (BMBWF), thanking them for their invaluable support.

Kotsis introduces **Tjoa** for the bestowal of Decorations for Science. **Tjoa** delivers recipient speech. **Kotsis** introduces **Obenaus** for the bestowal of Decorations for Science. **Obenaus** delivers recipient speech. The decorations of honour were bestowed by **Ramoser** (BMBWF, Group IV/B) on behalf of the Austrian Federal President at the request of the Minister of Science and Research.

Kotsis moderates a Panel Discussion on the topic of ‘*Sustainability*’. Questions discussed at the panel included the following:

- What can we personally, in your various roles as researcher / head of institute / vice rector / ..., contribute towards SDGs?
- What does sustainability mean for our network?
- How can we ensure sustainability in our network?
- What are possibilities of future academic cooperations between ASEAN Countries and European educational institutes under the ASEA-UNINET that will support the SDGs and the changing global Economy?
- Are there different ways of cooperation emerging in times when physical mobility is restricted due to various reasons (e.g., pandemic outbreaks, need for carbon footprint reduction, wars, prohibitively high travel costs, ...)?
- Is there a need for new funding instruments in times when physical mobility is restricted due to various reasons (e.g., pandemic outbreaks, need for carbon footprint reduction, wars, prohibitively high travel costs, ...)?

* *streamed event with online participation*

Selected answers from the panelists are summarized below:

- **Gera** (University of Philippines) advocates for removal of fossil fuels as an urgent measure to combat climate change.
- **Meissl** (University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna) outlines measures by Arts universities to meet SDGs and underlines the importance of networking, and collaborating, between Arts institutions.
- **Ramoser** (BMBWF) shares impression that within government work, there is limited agency for change. However, government work can offer support, including financial support, to help institutions and networks with changemaker potential such as ASEA-UNINET. This process takes time, and sustainability in academic cooperations becomes evident when a given input multiplies over time beyond the primary recipient's output.
- **Volz** (OeAD, Austria's Agency for Education and Internationalisation) outlines OeAD projects that are underpinned by SDG principles.
- **Wongsirichot** (Prince of Songkla University) describes Sustainability University Network of Thailand and highlights importance of interdisciplinary scientific work in solving social issues as they arise from sustainability challenges.
- The above panellists receive questions from audience and expand the discussion.

Working Groups: 'Strengthening Collaborations in the Network'

Working Groups take place for discussions, exchanges, and an exploration of the following topics:

- *'Promoting Interdisciplinary Research'*
- *'Opportunities for Funding'*
- *'Promoting Young Researchers'*
- *'Strategic Network Development'*

Country Coordinators’ Reports*

Reports by participating National Coordinators are presented throughout three sessions.

- Session 1 (AT+OeAD, ID, IR)
- Session 2 (IT, MY, PK)
- Session 3 (PH, ES, TH, VN)

Within the Malaysian National Coordinator Report, Prof. Dr. **Narimah Samat** is proposed as ASEA-UNINET President Candidate.

The individual country reports can be found in the Appendices.

Presentation of New Universities seeking Membership*

Presentations by New Universities seeking ‘Candidate Member’ status are held. Presenters answer questions from the audience.

- 1) Mae Fah Luang University (Thailand)
- 2) Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia)

Three Universities from Pakistan also gave their presentations, but have not been considered as potential candidate members because of lack of approval from the NC of Pakistan and therefore will not be listed in the vote on July 28th:

- 3) The Islamia University of Bahawalpur (Pakistan)
- 4) Institute of Space Technology (Pakistan)
- 5) Pakistan Institute of Engineering and Applied Sciences (Pakistan)

The individual presentations can be found in the Appendices.

* *streamed event with online participation*

Presentation of Working Groups Results

Representatives of each Working Group present their findings. Follow-up discussions on each Working Group topic are held by the wider audience of participants.

Plenary Session*

Presentation of Bernd Rode Award 2020/21 & 2022 Laureates:

Each Bernd Rode Award 2020/21 & 2022 laureate, or deputy, briefly presents the winning project. All winners, or their representatives, receive a certificate from **Kotsis. Rode**, the Honorary President of ASEA-UNINET and namesake of the award, takes part in the award ceremony virtually and emphasizes the wide range of research areas and the high scientific level within ASEA-UNINET.

The Bernd Rode Award presentations can be found in the Appendices.

Plenary Session

Kotsis explains the procedure for the upcoming scheduled elections:

- 1) Institution Membership Status
- 2) Motions
- 3) National Coordinators
- 4) Regional Coordinators
- 5) Network President

With the consideration of participants’ input, elections will proceed with an open vote. As communicated to participants prior to the Plenary Meeting, (i) only physically present participants may cast votes, and (ii) vote delegation is possible in the case of non-participation, provided arrangements were made prior to the Plenary Meeting with advance notice to the ASEA-UNINET Head Office and a letter of confirmation by the absentee.

1) The following Candidate Member institutions have been proposed by the NC meeting delegates for being accepted as full members of ASEA-UNINET:

- Universiti Malaysia Sarawak (Malaysia)
- University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy)
- University of Padua (Italy)
- Thuyloi University (Vietnam)

Following a vote, all of them are accepted as **Full Members** of ASEA-UNINET unanimously by the Plenary Meeting delegates.

The following New Universities seeking membership have been proposed by the NC Meeting delegates for being approved as **Candidate Members** of ASEA-UNINET:

- Mae Fah Luang University (Thailand)
- Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia)

Following a vote, all of them are accepted as **Candidate Members** of ASEA-UNINET unanimously by the Plenary Meeting delegates.

* *streamed event with online participation*

2) A draft for **Rules and Conditions for Asian Private University Members joining the Network** was presented:

➤ **General Policy**

- Private Universities (PU) from Asian full member countries may apply for becoming "Associate Private University Member" of ASEA-UNINET.
- The rules and conditions defined below will be shared within the whole network, but not announced on the website in public.
- Any additional national criteria need to be communicated within the network to ensure fairness and transparency.

➤ **Application procedure**

- PU needs to contact National Coordinator.
- NC informs the executives (<https://asea-uninet.org/network-members/executives/>) about the application.
- NC leads a discussion involving all current full members in the country, resulting in either a statement of support for the application or a rejection with a short justification sent to the applicant and the executives for information.
- Once the statement of national support is obtained, it will be forwarded to the President, who may invite PU to introduce themselves at the next Plenary Meeting.
- At such time the Plenum will vote whether or not this PU will be accepted as a new PU candidate member (member in spe).
- Candidate membership will be evaluated after 2 years (public university candidates will be evaluated after 9 month) and then PU can become Associate PU member.

➤ **Criteria**

- PU must have a strong orientation in research and must give evidence of scientific activities meeting international quality standards.
- PU needs to operate in accordance with the recognized scientific and ethical standards of the academic community.
- PU must offer curricula at all levels (at least Master and PhD).
- PU must show active participation in the network during candidate member status.
- NCs may define additional country-specific criteria for eligibility.

➤ **Membership**

- The membership status to be obtained is "Associate Private University Member".
- Both during candidate membership and after receiving Associate PU member status, PU is entitled to participate in the network's activities.
- Access to funding, however, depends on the specific rules of the various funding programs.
- The membership fee for PUs is charged the triple fee for public universities of the respective country.

Following a vote, a **motion** to adopt the policy outlined above was accepted.

3) The Universities of the member countries have confirmed the nominations of their National Coordinators.

4) A motion was proposed to re-elect the current Regional Coordinators for 2022-2023.

Following a vote, this motion was passed and the Regional Coordinators were re-elected:

- **Vice-President and Regional Coordinator for Europe:**
 - Univ.-Prof. Dr. **Wolfgang Obenaus**
- **Vice-President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia:**
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi**
- **Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for Europe:**
 - Prof. Dr.Dr.h.c. **A Min Tjoa**
- **Coordinator for Technology, Innovation and Sustainability Projects for South-East Asia:**
 - Assoc. Prof. Dr. **Ngo Chi Trung**

5) Prof. Dr. **Samat** (School of Humanities / Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic & International Universiti Sains Malaysia) was nominated as President of ASEA-UNINET.

Following a vote, Prof. Dr. **Narimah Samat** was elected unanimously as **President of ASEA-UNINET (2022-2023)**.

Samat as new President delivers her Address to the Plenary Meeting participants.
Universiti Sains Malaysia delivers a presentation.

Next Plenary Meeting is announced for the beginning of 2024 to be held in Malaysia.

Upcoming National Coordinator Meetings were announced for the upcoming months. Further details will be shared at a later point.

Kotsis officially closes the Plenary Meeting. Photos with the newly elected President are taken.

APPENDICES

The appendices can be accessed using the following links:

- A) [List of Participants](#)
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PLENARY MEETING PHOTOS

Picture of Hosting President with Newly Elected President

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Kotsis and Prof. Dr. Narimah Samat



Plenary Meeting Group Picture



Photo Slideshow

A photo slideshow, courtesy of Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi**, can be viewed under this [link](#).

Individual Photo Selection

A selection of individual photos, courtesy of Assoc.-Prof. Dr. **Mohamad Farizal bin Rajemi** and other Plenary Meeting Guests, can be accessed using the following links.

- [Link](#) to Day 1 Photos (Opening Day)
- [Link](#) to Day 2 Photos (Country Coordinator Reports)
- [Link](#) to Day 3 Photos (Bernd Rode Award, Elections, Closing)
- [Link](#) to Day 4 Photos (Social Programme)

These files have been compressed due to their size and are accessible up until 12.09.2022. If access is requested beyond the date listed, kindly get in touch with us at asea-uninet@oead.at.