MINUTES - ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting Bratislava, April 20th – April 22nd, 2015

Date: April 20th – April 22nd

Meeting Location: Comenius University in Bratislava / OeAd-GmbH, Vienna

Minutes: Niina Maarit Novak, BSc. Msc.

PARTICIPANTS

Prof. Dr. dr. Ketut Suastika, ASEA-UNINET President 2014-2015 (Indonesia)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode, ASEA-UNINET Honorary President (Austria)

Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli, Regional Coordinator Europe (Italy)

National Coordinators

Prof. A Min Tjoa (Austria)

Prof. Dr. Harno Dwi Pranowo (Indonesia)

Prof. Dr. Zainudin Bin Arifin (Malaysia)

Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D (Philippines)

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nitinant Wisaweisuan (Thailand)

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Mai Thanh Tung (Vietnam)

Prof. Dr. Aye Myint (Myanmar)

Prof.Dr.Vladimír Marík (Czech Republic)

Prof. Daniela Ostatníková, MD, PhD. (Slovakia)

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, Regional Coordinator Asia (Vietnam) excused

Dr. Rüdiger Korff (Germany) excused

PhDr. Mgr. Branislav Slyško, Press Secretary, Comenius University Bratislava

ASEA-UNINET Staff

Niina Maarit Novak, BSc. MSc.

Monday, April 20th

<u>08:30 – 10:30:</u> Travel by Bus from Vienna to Bratislava.

11.00 – 12.15: Sight-Seeing tour in Bratislava

12.30: Lunch at Hotel Avance.

14:15: NATIONAL Coordinators' Meeting

- Welcome speech by Prof. Ostatníková, Vice-Rector for International Relations, followed by a presentation of Comenius University and the host-country Slovakia.
- Opening speech by ASEA-UNINET President Prof. Suastika.
- Opening speech by ASEA-UNINET Honorary President Prof. Rode

14:45: Reports by National Coordinators and Regional Coordinators

Prof. A Min Tjoa, Austria

- All Austrian scholarships for foreign students will be unified under the umbrella of the ERNST MACH SCHOLARSHIPS (only awarded to foreign students studying in Austria)
 - o Ernst Mach Scholarships will reimburse total travel expenses up to 700 Euro.
 - Submission Deadline: December 1st 2015.
 - New Age limits (Graduates and Post-graduates: 35 years / Post-docs: 45 years)
 - For 2016/2017 scholarships target countries are Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand and Indonesia
- Report on Scholarship-Interviews conducted in (December 2014 Vietnam, February 2015 Thailand, February 2015 – Indonesia, May 2015 – Cambodia and Laos)
- New admission of Myanmar
- Reports of Austria's cooperation with Philippines, Vietnam, Thailand, Indonesia.
- Follow-up of the Innsbruck Plenary
- Report on ASEA-UNINET funded projects, planned for this year

• Prof. Harno Di Pranowo, Indonesia

- Overview of ASEA-UNINET universities and report on ASEA-UNINET activities in Indonesia
- Desired new member University would be UNHAS
- Popularity of Scopus-Index and discussion on this matter
- Organization of Meetings of Indonesian University Coordinators: "What are our intents within ASEA-UNINET?" It was pointed out that the organization of such national meetings should be a role model for all ASEA-UNINET member countries.
- Prof. Pranowo will publish within his books Series a special ASEA-UNINET issue (Success Story of ASEA-UNINET COLLABORATION IN INDONESIA: *ASEA-UNINET TRANSFORMING HIGHER EDUCATION THROUGH GLOBAL NETWORKING*.

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, Vietnam (Regional Coordinator Asia, (by Email))

 The Asian Regional Coordinator could unfortunately not attend the National Coordinators Meeting 2015, but communicated his suggestions and reports by email, which were then presented by the European National Coordinator, Prof. Dr. Locatelli.

• Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli, Italy (Regional Coordinator Europe)

- Report on the activities of Italian member universities (University of Trento, Politecnico di Milano, University of Genoa) with a special focus on scientific exchanges with other ASEA-UNINET Universities
- Importance of Erasmus Mundus / Erasmus Plus since Italian ministry does not have any funds for mobility-scholarships
- New bilateral agreement signed between University of Trento and University of Transport and Communications in Hanoi. Renewal of bilateral agreement between University of Trento and the University of Philippines in Manila.
- University of Genoa signed the Umbrella Agreement.
- Prof. Locatelli, second by Prof. Tjoa, points out that, including "ASEA-UNINET" as associate partner in ERASMUS MUNDUS / PLUS applications is likely to improve the probability to get accepted in this programs.
- Participation in various international conferences (including the European Higher Education Fare in Hanoi).
- Prof. Locatelli will present ASEA-UNINET at the EXPO in Milano. This was made possible due
 to the active involvement of the University of Brescia and close cooperations with Asian
 Coordinators and the Asian Regional Coordinator.

Prof. Locatelli's presentation was followed by a short discussion on the following topics:

- Erasmus Mundus / Erasmus Plus -> being a member of ASEA-UNINET improves funding probabilities
- ASEA-UNINET is not about recruiting paying students
- University ranking systems

16.20 – 16.45: Coffee break

• Prof. Dr. Zainudin Bin Arifin, Malaysia

- Gemology Center together with TU Graz for analysis and classification purposes
- Joint seminars
- Promotion of PhDs in Austria, due to the fact that PhDs in Austria are much less expensive.
 Higher attractively of PhD-Studies in Austria due to Umbrella Agreement, compared with other Anglo-Saxon countries.

• Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D, Indonesia

- Presentation of the University of the Philippines (UP)
 - Constituent Universities
 - o The UP Strategic Plan 2011-2017
 - Internationalisation initiatives and activities
 - Fellowship programs
 - Initiatives to transform UP in a Research-Intensive University
 - Expansion of UP
- Report on the Activities with ASEA-UNINET Universities 2014-2015 with a special focus on scientific exchanges
- Appeal to get more Philippine Universities into the Network

• Prof. Nitinat Wisaweisuan, Thailand

- Prof. Wisaweisuan points out that in the case of Thailand, collaboration is mainly based on bilateral agreements
- Thailand has now 18 ASEA-UNINET Member Universities
- Each university has their own internationalisation policy
- Review of Austrian-Thai scholarship programs
- Prof. Wisaweisuan mentions during her presentation that there are a couple of internal administrative problems / internal communication problems (e.g. PR). At the moment only very few students and professors know about ASEA- UNINET, however Thailand is working hard to make the internal communication between universities more sufficient and to increase visibility.
- Credits should be adopted every 3 years -> would accommodate the student exchange and make it more convenient for students to go abroad.
- Idea to link a conference with the plenary meeting 2016.
- Another problem is that most staff/lecturers already have a PhD however scholarships mainly focus on PhD studies.

Assoc.Prof. Dr. Mai Thanh Tung, Vietnam

- Foundation of an Austrian Vietnamese ASEA-UNINET Research LAB, together with HUST (next steps, date of inauguration)
- HUST very active
- Activity Report in the frame of Erasmus Mundus Projects and ASEA-UNINET Scholarships
- Report on the developments of joint research activities and regarding the support of exchange programs for Vietnamese member universities.

• Prof. Dr. Vladimír Marík, Czech Republic

- Report on the long and fruitful relationship between the Czech Republic and Asian countries, especially between Czech technical Universities and Asian Universities.
- There has been a dramatic, but positive, change in the last couple of months due to the establishment of a new higher education ministry which is now supporting international exchange.
- Prof. Zainudin mentions that the communication between the national coordinators is very difficult. Prof. Tjoa suggests to have a skype conference on a regular basis. Prof. Rode, suggests to increase the usage of the notice board on the ASEA-UNINET website.

Prof. Dr. Aye Myint, Rector Yangon Technical University, Myanmar

- Presentation of new ASEA-UNINET Member University: Yangon Institute of Technology
- ASEA-UNINET President, Prof. Suastika thanks Rector Prof. Myint for his presentation and highlights that he hopes that Myanmar will be an active member of ASEA-UNINET.
- ❖ Yangon Technical University is unanimously accepted as new member of ASEA-UNINET. Prof. Dr. Aye Myint, is consequently appointed ASEA-UNINET National Coordinator for Myanmar.
- ❖ Prof. Rode politely asks whether it is possible for Yangon Technical University to pay the regular ASEA-UNINET Membership fee and entrance fee. Rector Myint confirms that this is possible.

19.00: End of Meeting

20:00: Dinner at Aucafé, hosted by Comenius University (CU) with representatives of CU

Tuesday, April 21st

Sightseeing Program

- Travel to Kremnica
 - o Tour through Kremnica
 - Visit of Kreminca Mint
- Travel to Banská Štiavnica
 - o Guided Tour through Banská Štiavnica including the visit of a gold mine.
 - Dinner at Restaurant Erb

All participants congratulated and thanked our colleagues from Comenius University Bratislava for the perfect organization and outstanding degree of hospitality shown during the Meeting.

Wednesday, April 22nd

08:30 - 12:00: Travel by Bus from Banská Štiavnica to Vienna

12.15 - 12.45: Lunch at OeAd-GmbH, Vienna

13:00: Continuation of NATIONAL Coordinators' Meeting

- Report on the Strategy Meeting(Dec. 2014, Vienna) by Prof. Dr. Zainudin Bin Arifin
 - Strengthening academic cooperation
 - Strategic Research Areas
 - Alumni Tracking
 - Joint Labs
 - Joint Excellence Initiatives
 - Bernd Rode Award
 - Jubilee Year
 - 200 years of Technical University of Vienna,
 - o 650 years of University of Vienna and
 - o 250 years of University of Vet Med
- Discussion on the rating and acceptance of papers in the field of humanities, literature and philosophy.
 - Prof. Locatelli points out that there is a standard behaviour in acceptance regarding the
 acceptance of papers in these field due to a strong bias from the English speaking world. To
 counteract this problem of Anglo-Saxon centred publications in literature and humanities it is
 important to have a counterpart, as reciprocality is not happening.
 - Prof. Tjoa suggests a new agenda point for 2016, if possible supported by Austria: A Cultural ASEA-UNINET journal, initiated by ASEA-UNINET which should be started with invitation-only papers.

Bernd Rode Award

- General:
 - o 3 categories: Junior, Senior, Project-based
 - At every plenary meeting there will be an announcement (every 18 months)
 - The awarded prize money should be used for new projects / reinvested into projects (e.g. to buy equipment)
 - o Applications should be sent to the chair of the committee.
 - Committee should prepare a "Call of award"

- Things to be considered:

- The call will be distributed via national/regional coordinators to all universities and all coordinators should encourage people to submit projects.
- Should be also used as a promotion tool for ASEA UNINET
- Higher value of award -> sustainable projects
- o Projects that involve both continents Asia & Europe
- Only excellent projects should be awarded (in case of a lack of excellent submissions in a specific category no award will be handed out)
- o Recommendations should be possible

Selected committee members:

- Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli (Italy)
- o Prof. Dr. dr. Ketut Suastika (Indonesia)
- o Prof. Dr. Zainudin Bin Arifin (Malysia)
- Assoc.Prof. Dr. Ngo Chi Trung (Vietnam)
- o Prof. A Min Tjoa (Austria)
- o Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nitinant Wisaweisuan (Thailand)
- o Prof.Dr.Vladimír Marík (Czech Republic)

• ASEA-UNINET President: Prof. Dr. dr. Ketut Suastika (Indonesia)

- Cooperation with Vienna University of Economics (PhD- Programs, special focus on women)
- Would like to increasingly invite professors to Indonesia e.g. from Europe, for the purpose of "Professor Mentoring" and to enhance research and cooperation with international universities

Plenary 2016 – Presentation of the preliminary Agenda by ASEA-UNINET President: Prof. Dr. dr. Ketut Suastika (Indonesia)

- 1 additional Day for scientific workshops / conference
 - 4 parallel sessions (Science and Technology / Economic and Social Science / Health,
 Pharmacy and medicine / Humanities, Culture and Music)
- The dates will be set soon and send out to everyone
- For details please see the attached program

• Universities seeking Membership

- o Indonesia: IPB, Makassar, UNHAS
- o Portugal: University of Porto (Portugal)
- o Slovakia: Kosice University, Technical University of Bratislava
- Poland: University of Economics Wroclaw (Rector, approached Prof. Tjoa during 650 year celebration), Poznan University of Technology
- Malaysia: Sarawak (Prof. Narayanan / Kadim), UNIMAS
- o Cambodia: Royal University of Cambodia
- o Myanmar: Mandalay University
- o Belgium

Prof. Suastika's presentation was followed by a short discussion on the following topics:

- Have we reached a limit of growth?
- Perhaps friends from Vietnam or other countries would like to reach out to Cambodia and Laos to discuss the possibility of joining ASEA-UNINET
- Visit of other universities e.g. Myanmar or other countries
- Possibility to attach small workshops and/or conferences to the plenary meeting 2016.

- Vision Statement by the European Regional Coordinator Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli
 Answering the question "Where we want to go?", and pointing out that open dialog, respect,
 trust and commitment are some of the core values of ASEA UNINET making it a WIN-WIN
 situation for all people involved.
- Closing by ASEA-UNINET President Prof. Suastika.

16.00: End of National Coordinators Meeting

18.30: Dinner, hosted by ASEA-UNINET in Vienna (together with all Austrian Coordinators as well as representatives of the Austrian Ministry and Ambassadors) at Restaurant Schubert Mediterran.

TO DO LIST:

- Skype Conference initiation
- Bernd Rode Award (Call for Award, Submission Deadlines + Guidelines)
- o Vietnam -> Inauguration of Austrian Vietnamese ASEA-UNINET Research LAB (HUST)
- o Jubilee Year of Austrian Universities -> Exhibition / Road Show in Asian member countries
- Plenary 2016 -> exact dates to be set!
- New Member Universities
- o 2016: Cultural ASEA-UNINET JOURNAL



ASEA-UNINET National Coordinators Meeting 2015

(from I. to r.: Magdalena Belkova, Prof. Dr. Aye Myint, Prof.Dr. Vladimír Marík, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nitinant Wisaweisuan, Univ.-Prof. Dr. DDDDr.h.c. Bernd Michael Rode, Prof. Daniela Ostatníková, MD, PhD., Prof. Dr. dr. Ketut Suastika, Prof. Dr. Carla Locatelli, Prof. A Min Tjoa, Assoc.Prof. Dr. Mai Thanh Tung, Prof. Dr. Zainudin Bin Arifin, Prof. Dr. Harno Dwi Pranowo, Gisela P. Concepcion, Ph.D, Niina Maarit Novak, BSc. MSc.)