

9th Plenary Meeting of ASEA-Uninet, Nha Trang/Vietnam, 4-8 February 2007

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I. Welcome Speech by Chairman

The Chairman, Prof. Ha Duyen Tu, opens the meeting reviewing the history and growth of the network from 1994 to date and inviting the Regional Coordinators, Prof. Bernd Michael Rode and Prof. Piniti Ratananukul to join him at the chair.

He welcomes all participants and greets Mrs. Katharine Park from the Austrian Embassy in Hanoi and Mrs. Aporn Kanvong and Mrs. Wattanasopee Suksa-ar from the Commission of Higher Education in Thailand.

Prof. Ha then asks the Asea-Uninet representatives to introduce themselves. Afterwards he presents the programme of the meeting, gives an overview of the National Coordinators Meeting held in Vienna in April 2006 and reports on the AEH meeting in Singapore where he introduced Asea-Uninet.

II. Reports

Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, Regional Coordinator for S.E.Asia takes the chair and requests Dr. Edwan Kardena, National Coordinator for Indonesia, to present the Indonesian activities:

1. Report of the Indonesian Asea-Uninet Coordinator

There are five member universities in Indonesia, who participate successfully in the scholarship programmes with Austria. He reports on the number of on-place, PhD, one-month

and post-doc scholarships. There are rarely applications for post-doc scholarships because the age limit of 35 is too low.

The infrastructure is important within the network because it facilitates initial contacts for exchange of scientists and researchers. There is a joint summer school at the University of Indonesia (UI) and the University of Gajah Mada (UGM) with the Univ. of Economics and Business Administration in Vienna.

Through regional networks such as AUN, intra-Asian contacts are also strengthened by cooperation in common fields such as tsunami -related topics.

2. Report of the Philippine Asea-Uninet Coordinator

Prof. Amelia P. Guevara reports that the Philippines joined Asea-Uninet in 1997 but has become really active since the 2000s with regard to scholarships and visiting professors. The Asian Studies Programme is very productive and has brought over 100 students to the Philippines to date. Only one of the Areas of Cooperation – Economics and Social Sciences / Health and Science is being developed at present. Further possibilities with other countries should be explored.

3. Report of the Thai Asea-Uninet Coordinator

There are 15 member universities from Thailand. The Thai coordinators visited Austria for one week in 2006. Thai students and staff have been very successful in obtaining Technology, North-South-Dialogue, Scientist Exchange, Guest Professor, one-month Asea-Uninet and Music Scholarships from the Austrian side.

Austrian scientists have received scholarships from Thailand in the framework of Austrian Junior Scientists Project (up to 3 months) and Guest Professors/Visiting Scientists Project (one to three months). Thailand has introduced a student exchange in other directions for the various programmes incl. music. An Undergraduate Scholarship Programme was started in 2006.

4. Report of the Vietnamese Asea-Uninet Coordinator

Dr. Ngo Chi Trung reports on the international summer courses held in Vietnam and the Asian Studies Programme introducing Austrian students to Vietnam. There is also a Viet-Net programme (Italy – Vietnam) with photo-electronics and nanotechnology, IT and computer sciences (U.K. – Vietnam) and exchange of professors. The cooperation in the field of music has increased with Vietnamese students studying in Austria and musicians and teachers from Austria visiting Vietnam. Asia Link programmes are active with Italy and the U.K.

5. Report of the Pakistani Asea-Uninet Coordinator

Prof. Iqbal Choudhary from the University of Karachi (Associated Member), which is the largest University in Pakistan (7th most populated country of the world), stresses the long relationship with Austria. In cooperation with Pakistan Austria will build a university in Lahore starting in 2008. The Rector, Dean and part of the teaching staff will come from Austria. The Austrian Minister for Education, Mrs. Elisabeth Gehrler visited Pakistan twice in 2006.

The University of Karachi has the first Computational Chemistry unit in Pakistan and has organised 19 international events because they are leading in this field. Many Asian students (from Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia) and also many German students have trained at this world-class facility for Natural Product Chemistry.

The Higher Education Commission carries out a Ph.D. programme enabling approx. 1,500 students to study abroad.

The first Ph.D. students who have completed their studies in Austria have taken up work in Pakistan again.

III. Report of European Coordinator

Prof. Rode, Regional Coordinator for Europe, takes the chair and conveys greetings from Prof. Norman Revell of Middlesex University who is unable to attend for health reasons. *(Remark: unfortunately Prof. Revell passed away a few days later and is greatly missed and fondly remembered by all his colleagues.)*

Prof. Rode introduces shortly the applications for new membership.

- Russia as a binding element between Asia and Europe
- Cyprus was unable to attend due to internal changes at the University of Nicosia

He welcomes Greece (University of Ioannina represented by the Rector Prof. Ioannis Gerathanassis) who will now be participating again actively in the network.

The number of projects is too numerous to be reported in detail but it can be generally stated that a high level of results has been obtained despite a very low budget. Asea-Uninet coordinators have key functions. Prof. Rifa Hector's work with the Cambodian jungle girl was reported in newspapers throughout the world. Former Asea-Uninet Coordinators have now taken over top political functions: Prof. Banh Tien Long is now Vice Minister for Education in Vietnam, Prof. Kusmayanto Kadiman is Minister of Science and Technology in Indonesia and Prof. Dr. Wichit Srisa-an is Minister of Education in Thailand.

In Austria there have been changes in the scholarship programmes. The North-South-Dialogue Programme is now keyed to the least developed countries and has, therefore, largely been replaced by the Technology Scholarships. The Asea-Uninet budget provides further facilities for newcomers and cooperation.

A new government has come into power in Austria. Asea-Uninet carries out the main international activities in research. The new Minister, Dr. Johannes Hahn has made a commitment to visit all Asea-Uninet countries.

Asea-Uninet activities in Pakistan have expanded. Pakistan fully funds almost 100 of her Ph.D. students in Austria. There is a careful pre-selection process, only the best students are sent to the final interview round. The advantage for the host universities is that these selected students support the research work of their hosts without costs.

Pakistan will be building Universities of Technology and Technology Parks in different places in Pakistan. Austria is the first European country to have laid the foundation stone in the presence of Pakistan's President Pervez Musharaff, Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman, Federal Minister and Chairman of the Higher Education Commission, and Elisabeth Gehrer, Austrian Minister of Education, at Lahore.

The issuance of visas has been a lengthy process. This is not a national matter but an EU matter. Austria is trying to get a new draft for the immigration law with specific aspects for students and scientists. Ph.D. students can also be considered as researchers and thus enter without waiting for a residence permit. The facilitation of a Schengen visa (valid for all EU countries) enables researchers to visit several European Asea-Uninet universities.

It is hoped that there will be an increase in the number of Technology Scholarships by almost 50%. A decision is pending. The age-limit of 35 for post-doc scholarships could be increased up to 40 if there is sufficient evidence of scientific activity on the part of the scholarship applicant. Sometimes it is difficult for a post-doc to get leave for one year due to the combination of research with other academic duties. It is, therefore, now possible to spend a 6 month post-doc stay abroad. If other governments provide short-term scholarships, these stays could be made longer term and increase the European aspect (by visiting more than one European university). The Technology Grants in Austria are funded by the Ministry but administered by Asea-Uninet.

IV. Informal Discussion

Prof. Ralph Gretzmacher (BOKU Vienna, Austria) introduces ENVIRONMENTAL AGRICULTURE and reports on a project between Austria (BOKU) and Mahidol University by which waste products in food production, such as shrimp shells, can be utilized in a meaningful way (e.g. in the aforementioned case for land fertilization). He invites others to participate in ecology agriculture.

Prof. Choudhary (University of Karachi, Pakistan) advises of a new focus group: natural product and bio-organic chemistry. He stresses his university's expertise and global science network in this area. He invites all network members to get in contact with him. He formally announces that the University of Karachi will be offering full scholarships later this year. A workshop on Natural Product Research took place in November 2006 and a workshop on Computation Medical Chemistry will also take place later (November) this year.

Prof. Srisin Khusmith, Mahidol University, advises that Mahidol University would like to collaborate with Asea-Uninet member countries both in research and staff exchange in the fields of genomics, bioinformatics stem cell and gene therapy, pharmacogenomics, nanoscience and nanotechnology, natural products, natural rubber, as well as in basic science e.g. mathematics and physics. For its own part Mahidol University is strong in the areas of medicine and public health, emerging and re-emerging diseases, so these are the main areas for collaboration. They also concentrate on the important diseases such as Avian Flu and HIV/AIDS.

Mahidol University offers Graduate Fellowships (full scholarships) for qualified students who got Ph.D. within 5 years from countries around the world (Thai, European and other Asian

countries). Anyone who is interested to apply for this fellowship is invited to do so. This programme might also help to enhance the activity of Asea-Uninet.

Prof. Chatchai Ratanachai, PSU, advises of a project managing lake and coastal regions which could be a platform of joint research and invites other members to join him.

Prof. Choudhary, University of Karachi, supports Prof. Rode's proposal to formalize scholarships and hand them over to the network to select the students. The University of Karachi supports the management of these scholarships by the network.

Prof. Neti Waranuch, Naresuan University, invites other universities to join in the field of natural products.

Prof. Reibnegger, Medical University of Graz, advises that his university will accept five internships from Asea-Uninet universities in Asia for a four-week period, preferably in July, August or September and carry the cost of accommodation, which will also be arranged.

Prof. Carla Locatelli, University of Trento, advises that the Italian government would not allow its universities to outsource scholarship management. The immediate financial responsibility to account for money spent is directly to the Ministry. Technology and Sciences are mainly financed from private sources, moving teachers to expose them to cultural diversity with the aim of creating people open to the world: social sciences, humanities. Besides technical areas it is encouraged to include specific areas for humanities and social sciences.

She supports Prof. Guevara's suggestion to stress the arts fields in Asea Uninet. For the next meeting Prof. Locatelli proposes that all coordinators prepare a list of the fields where their universities want to expand. She would thus see what is further required in international cooperation in order to facilitate building a project-related relationship.

Prof. Rode thanks for the substantial comments. He stresses the importance of "open eyes, minds and hearts". Scientists also need access to the local way people think and their culture. This process should start at school with awareness to the global situation. There is otherwise a danger when dominating powers tell you what to think. Rode suggests that the social scientists in the network work out a plan how to open minds. Ideology holds the greatest danger and has killed more people than any technology development. By living together, an understanding develops and people learn how to compromise. Europe and Asia are well suited because the dialogue takes place between two old-grown cultures.

Prof. Hector Rifa, Spain, agrees with this and looks for practical ways.

Dr. Edwan Kardena, Indonesia, agrees with Prof. Locatelli and adds that Japan has been very successful with the Asian cultural summer school at undergraduate level, 50% science and 50% culture. He would like the summer school programmes to be expanded. ITB is searching for partners in Arts and Humanities. They are also interested in cooperation in soiled ground. The Notice Board should be used more often.

Prof. Tjoa, TU Vienna, introduces his student Binh who studied at the TU Vienna.

Prof. Rode talks about problems when students are looking for a supervisor. They should go through the homepage of Asea Uninet to find a suitable host and then present a concrete

project. If they are unable to find a host, this could be a sign that they are not suitable for a grant since hundreds of students manage to find their hosts this way. It is also possible to ask alumni at the local universities who already have experience in these matters.

Prof. Wolfgang Obenaus, Univ. of Economics, Vienna, advises that finding a supervisor is an integral part of the process. He encourages Ph.D. students to look early enough and keep trying even if they do not get answers straight away. Since the interviews take place in Jan./Feb. each year, they should start looking in the summer in order to have sufficient time to obtain all required documents. He encourages the coordinators to spread the information well in advance and to motivate the potential candidates.

Prof. Piniti, Thailand, advises that the Asian side has become a good recipient and now provides opportunities for European students to increase mobility.

Ms. Marcella Orru, Univ. of Trento, Italy, stresses the importance of teaching languages and human arts in general. Sometimes an introductory week is given before the specific project starts. This is not sufficient for people to get knowledge of culture although it does help to prepare them to cope with diversities in a more effective way.

Dr. Trung proposes to add more information to the Asea-Uninet homepage which holds the most up-to-date information.

V. Presentation of New Members

(Remark: The Putri University of Malaysia, also applying for new membership, made their introduction on 6 February but will be included here as No. 5.)

1. University of Danang, Vietnam (www.ud.edu.vn)

The University of Danang was founded in 1994 when 5 specialist universities of the central provinces were combined into one central university, the University of Technology forming the largest part. A College of Medicine will be established in the near future.

2. St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University, Russia (www.spbstu.ru)

Dr. Nikita M. Golovin presented The Polytechnical University of St. Petersburg which was founded in 1899 and can claim 3 Nobel Prize winners. It is industry-related with education forming the main activity. It is funded 50% by the government, the rest is privately funded. Engineering is the main discipline. Tuition is mainly in Russian but some courses are held in English for foreign and Russian students. Research is mainly performed in English. Double degree programmes are currently being developed.

3. University of Transport and Communication, Hanoi, Vietnam (www.uct.edu.vn)

The University of Transport and Communication was founded in 1945 and has 2 campuses, one in Hanoi and one in Ho Chi Minh City. The aim is a multidisciplinary university of technology and economics at high level and high quality.

4. Burapha University, Thailand (www.buu.ac.th)

Prof. Pichan Sawangwong, Rector, introduces the University of Burapha which was founded in 1955. A video and powerpoint presentation give a general impression of the many facets of this university. International cooperation plays an important role and joint degrees are possible. Exchange students are welcome.

5. Putri University of Malaysia (www.upm.edu.my)

Malaysia has a total of 8 universities, 4 of which are research universities. The Putri University of Malaysia is a research university. 70% of its activities are research, 30% are teaching. A good link with Pakistan already exists in the field of chemistry.

After each introduction any open questions were clarified and the acceptance of the new member was put to the plenum. All five above mentioned universities were accepted unanimously as new members.

VI. Introduction of Vietnamese Officials and Welcoming Speeches

Prof. Ha introduces Vice-Minister Prof. Banh Tien Long and the Vice-President of Khanh Hoa Province.

[view Speech of Chairman](#)

Prof. Banh Tien Long was the Asea-Uninet Coordinator for HUT Hanoi and National Coordinator for Vietnam as well as Vice-Coordinator for Asia before he became Vice Minister of Education. He looks back with happy memories on these former terms of office. The Vietnamese government has signed a resolution to train 20,000 Ph.D. students abroad by 2020.

[view Speech of Vice Minister of Education](#)

Vice President Xuan Than hopes that the University of Nha Trang will also become a member of Asea-Uninet at a later date. By 2010 all universities in Vietnam should have transferred to the grading system and be accredited.

VII. Presentation of Network Activities

Prof. Rode presents the network activities. Asea-Uninet is simply the unification of goodwill from many countries and universities and has already worked for a cycle of twelve years, with exchange of students, staff and culture with a minimum of bureaucracy. Seed money for projects has been successful and led in some cases to large projects.

The number of multilateral projects should increase to give Asea-Uninet greater character as a network. Previous Asea-Uninet coordinators / Rectors of Asea-Uninet member universities have taken over Minister positions, as in Vietnam, Indonesia and Thailand.

It is planned to produce a database. Austria already has an alumni database for Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam with more than 1,000 names. A list of contacts where joint ventures are planned should be drawn up. This is instrumental for economics. For example, the subway in Bangkok was built by an Alumnus of the University of Innsbruck. Minister Kusmayanto visited Austria to look into bio-diesel production and made contact with Austrian companies. In the meantime this has led to two contracts. Asea-Uninet is mentioned in the new Austrian government's programme.

The presentation of new universities is focussed on applied research but basic research creates knowledge and resources for indigenous applications for industry. Richer countries such as Japan and South Korea have reached sustainable development only after investing in basic research.

He states the example of Pakistan's Ph.D. programme (government supported Ph.D. students sent to Austria for 3 years) and offers to do the same for Vietnam (a part of the 20,000 Vietnamese Ph.D. students to be trained) in a simple and unbureaucratic way with the help of Asea Uninet.

Networking is essential and this was recognised by Asea-Uninet 12 years ago, long before the EU created their programme. The U.N. have already dealt with these issues in the UNCSTD, of which Prof. Rode is Vice-President at the present time.

Global networks must be created and culture should be experienced in order to get optimal strategy to combine and get the best, but cultural identities should still be preserved.

Small tokens of appreciation (Swarovski crystal figures) are handed to the dignitaries and organisers by Prof. Rode.

Vice-Chancellor Siddiqui also hands over presents from Pakistan.

(Remark: The Putri University of Malaysia then holds its presentation which for easy reference has been included under "New Members".)

1. European Projects

The European Coordinators were invited to take the floor.

a) Pakistan Austrian University

Prof. Hartmut Kahlert, TU Graz, gives an overview of PAU, Lahore which is part of a larger project of Pakistan.

This project is called: "UESTP" (University of Engineering, Science, Technology Project) and involves nine countries:

- Six European countries: Austria, Germany, France, Sweden, Italy and the Netherlands
- Three Asian countries: Korea, China, Japan

The project was started last year with dramatic developments. The Austrian Minister for Education, Elisabeth Gehrler, visited Islamabad in January 2006 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding. The TU Vienna, TU Graz and Mining University of Leoben formed a consortium.

In August Pakistan set up the financial framework for which 27 billion rupees (EUR 300 million) are planned over 2 years just for the Austrian preparatory part. In autumn a meeting was held in Stockholm with Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman. In November the foundation stone was laid in Lahore by Minister Musharraf and Minister Gehrler. A Letter of Intent was signed, the Austrian Exchange Service (OeAD) will administer the project.

This ensures human resources development for education in the country where strong economic relations should be built. A Technology Park will be built for economic growth. The architecture faculty of TU Graz visited the site and the whole faculty will be involved in this project. A liaison office will be based in Austria.

b) Report of the National Coordinator of Spain, Prof. Rifa

Spain has 3 member universities. Since Spain used to cooperate to 90% with Latin America, the Spanish language was most important. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes Spanish language classes. However since more emphasis is being put on Asia, the trainers are being trained in English.

Cambodia sends students to Thailand. Khon Kaen organises courses centrally for various Thai universities.

University of Oviedo

The University of Oviedo is currently working on setting up bilateral agreements with Chiang Mai University and Khon Kaen University. Both agreements are to be signed in August 2007. Activities are planned for August 2008 at Khon Kaen University in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of Spain in Thailand, Cambodia and Laos PDR, and the technical assistance of the University of Oviedo.

University of Murcia

The University of Murcia has a project coordinated within the Asia Link framework on European comparative studies from a multidisciplinary perspective, including political science, economy, intercultural communication and social work.

They reached a bilateral agreement with Prince of Songkla University.

A bilateral agreement with Chulalongkorn University in the field of chemical engineering is to be signed in August 2007.

University of Barcelona

Please contact the National Coordinator for information and contact with the university coordinator or/and contact directly with the International Relations Office at the University of Barcelona.

Report of the National Coordinator of Italy, Prof. Locatelli

The Polytechnical University of Milan and the University of Verona are not present but send their best regards. The University of Bolzano is interested in becoming a member of Asea-Uninet.

The Minister of Education reduced the support for international scholarship so that the University of Trento is looking for alternative sources (private, Ministry for Foreign Affairs).

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is a new sponsor and there is a Memorandum of Understanding addressed to specific countries which varies every 2 years. At the moment basically all Asea-Uninet countries are covered. It is not possible from a legal point of view to let Asea-Uninet administer these scholarships.

Trento continues its activities in the network (Viet-Net) 2002 – to date, which gives about 15 people (admin.staff, students and staff) mobility. The Ministry finances specific projects – at the moment these are:

- preservation and restoration of wooden monuments in Indonesia and

workshops on

- photonics,
- nanotechnology and
- Semantic Webs with ITB, Bandung.

The summer schools at Trento University offer free access to Asea-Uninet members. Prof. Locatelli welcomes all members to participate.

ASEM offers five grants to young researchers (two for Chulalongkorn and one for Burapha given to date).

Thanks to private donations The Royal Library in Pnom Phen, University of Cambodia, has been brought to university level.

2. Asian Projects

The Asian Coordinator, Prof. Piniti, explains that there are ten ASEAN countries (five of which are now represented in Asea-Uninet). Only two are rich, namely Singapore and Brunei. There was one big EU project (AUNP) which was expected to run for five years but it was completed after three years and only 50% of the funding was utilised. Asea Uninet is more flexible and faster in answering the requirements for project funding.

a) Report of the Coordinator of Thailand, Prof. Piniti

Projects funded by Thailand:

Guest Professors: supported by the Commission of Higher Education which carry the costs for guest professors from Austria.

Student Exchange Programme by the Commission of Higher Education which supports students from Austria and other European countries for one to two semesters in international courses.

b) Report of the Coordinator of Indonesia, Dr. Edwan Kardena

In terms of cooperation with European universities, members of Asea-Uninet in Indonesia have been quite active in participating in joint research funded by the European Union through the Asia-Link scheme. For example, ITB has been participating in joint research on solid waste management in which one of the Austrian universities (BOKU) is also involved. Another project called "Biotechnology of Jatropha" involving Groningen University, Netherlands, is also being carried out. This project will support the national effort in promoting biofuel.

Scholarship to study Indonesian language:

The Indonesian government, through the Directorate General of Higher Education, offers a limited number of scholarships for students interested to come to Indonesia to study the Indonesian language. The scholarship is called "darmasiswa"

c) Report of the Coordinator of the Philippines, Prof. Amelia Guevara

Within the framework of international cooperation there is a visiting professor programme of two weeks to one month. As funding is limited, travel expenses are not carried but accommodation is offered for this period. Professors on a Sabbatical leave are welcome to spend one semester teaching special topics – social sciences, arts & humanities are preferred. Schools of Economics and Business are two of the strongest units. Simple informal arrangements can lead to the signing of agreements. Active participants are welcome.

100 students from Austria visited the Philippines to attend lectures and visit cultural places. Asea Uninet reimburses the University of the Philippines the cost of the local programme. Chulalongkorn was also a partner in the past. Other cooperations can be explored directly.

3. Discussion about Network Activities

Prof. Rode invites the other European member universities to participate in the Asian Studies Programme (junior staff members, students). The programme is held in English and is excellent. The best Asian teachers are available. The programme is always announced on the Asea Uninet Notice Board.

Dr. Trung advises that Austria and Italy provide most project support. There are scientific conferences in Hanoi and Burapha.

Prof. Obenaus suggests taking an initiative with Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar and including them in the network.

Prof. Choudhary gives a historical overview of the universities in Pakistan which was founded in 1947. 60% of the budget is spent on defence. Under the leadership of Prof. Atta-ur-Rahman many ideas were realised.

He explains the programmes of HEC:

The amount US-\$ 20,000 is available to all as seed money to start up international cooperation. This year the largest Fulbright project with 100 senior scientists is being set up. Main collaboration is with Austria and Germany.

The foreign faculty programme (one to three years) gives bright young people access to a good salary, facilities and projects, and they can apply for Pakistani citizenship.

Prof. Kofler, Medical University of Innsbruck, thanks his colleagues for the opportunities Austrian students have been given for medical training in Asia.

VIII. Focus Areas

Following groups were identified and a working group was formed for the International Relations Officers:

The focus areas were discussed and following reports were given:

Group 1 - Science & Technology

Prof. Tjoa, TU Vienna, and Dr. Kardena, ITB Bandung

Changed Focus Areas

- Automotive Engineering (Kahlert, TUG; Le Anh Tuan, HUT)
- Transportation and Tunnel Engineering (Kahlert, TUG; Nguyen Viet Trung, UTC)
- Applied Mathematics (Spinelli, PTM; Kappel, UG)
- Information Sciences & Technology (Tjoa, TUV; I. Liem, ITB)
- Biomedical Engineering (Kappel, UG; Moh. Nu, ITS)
- Energy (Schnitzer, TUG; Vanida Bhavakuli, KMUTT)

New Focus Areas

- Multimedia (Tjoa, TUV; Ahmad Waskidi, ITS)
St. Petersburg, UGM, ITS, ITB, TUV, TUG, SDU
- Urban Planning (Gretzmacher, BOKU)
BOKU, TUV, UGM, ITS, ITB
- Natural & Biological Chemistry (Iqbal, Karachi)
UInn, ITB, Karachi, BOKU, UGraz, UGN
- Product Innovation (Voss, SDU)
SDU, TUV, St. Petersburg, ITB, HUT

Group 2 - Economic and Social Sciences

Prof. Pierangelo Peri, Trento University, Prof. Obenaus, Univ.Economics Vienna, and Prof. Amelia Guevara, Univ. of the Philippines

1. Ongoing Collaboration:

a) Research and training in tourism, involves Austria, Vietnam, Thailand, Philippines, Indonesia

b) Short-term courses

- Area Study: Asian Studies Programmes are being carried out in Thailand, Indonesia, Vietnam and the Philippines for Austrian students
- European summer course

- Workshop on intercultural management and international business; involves Austria, Thailand, Vietnam (UInn, WU, NEU, PSU) and is a 3-week course (60 hours) for Austrian and Asian students

c) Joint Degree Programme

i. Groningen and ITB

- MS Biomedical Engineering
- MS Chemical Engineering
- MS Actuarial Science

ii. Groningen and Gadjah Mada University

- MS Biomedical Engineering
- MS International Management
- MS Public Health
- MS Regional and Local Planning

iii. Asia-Link Project Murcia

2. Future Collaboration

- Bilateral programmes should be expanded to become multilateral programmes and fill in additional fields with many universities involved and having more students from different universities to participate in each programme, i.e. Asian studies should be complementary with EU studies.
- Research Programme: This programme is very important and very useful especially to get more collaboration between member universities, a methodological approach should be explored in an innovative and integrative way. The result from research will be new knowledge for academic institutes and also the supporting knowledge for creating or developing new curriculum programmes for better understanding and tolerance. Furthermore it may be useful for some countries for their social development projects. Some proposed research topics are:

i. National Resource Management by KU and NEU and HCM

ii. Islamic Study, Peace Study and Conflict Management by PSU with Austrian support

iii. Social problems, Current Sociological Study of UT

iv. Environmental Economy by MahU, PSU and NEU

v. E-tourism with GIS and E-commerce by Austria, PSU. MU should be invited to join

vi. Socio-Cultural and Economic Impacts, Health Problem and Technology Transfer in the Tsunami Area (KU, PSU, Austria)

List of Abbreviations:

HCM – National University of Vietnam, HCM City, Vietnam

KU – Kasetsart University, Bangkok, Thailand

MahU – Mahidol University, Bangkok, Thailand

NEU – National Economics University, Hanoi, Vietnam

PSU – Prince of Songkla University, Hat Yai, Thailand

UInn- University of Innsbruck, Austria

UT – University of Trento, Italy

WU – University of Economics, Vienna, Austria

Group 3 - Health, Pharmacy and Medicine

Prof. Walter Kofler, Innsbruck, Dr. Roslan Sulaiman, Malaysia, Prof. Srisin Khusmith, Mahidol

Suranaree medical project, produce doctors for rural areas
Research Inter. Products, BOKU

Group 4 - Humanities, Culture and Music

Prof. Kaufmann, Mozarteum, Salzburg, and Rector Thanh, Hanoi Cons. of Music

The programme "Advanced Studies in Music" initiated at the Plenary Meeting has been realized and the first professors have taught in Vietnam and Thailand.

Group 5 - Working Group: International Cooperation Departments

Ms. Marcella Orru, Trento, and Prof. Pichan Sawangwong, Burapha, made the following suggestions:

1. Website should be available in English
2. Asea-Uninet homepage connection should be given on the homepages of the member universities.

Prof. Rode suggests that members could have an icon on their main page with a link to the Asea Uninet homepage.

Use "useful links" for scholarships available, links of member countries

Make more use of "notice board".

Prof. Rifa comments on group four. The Spanish language programme should be included in the report.

Prof. Piniti speaks of the ten ASEAN countries:

Six are economically better developed: Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand,

Four are poorer: Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam

He suggests taking Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar into the network in order to extend the cooperation.

Prof. Rode advises that Vietnam's education is much more advanced than in the three other countries. Membership is only feasible with state-of-the-art education. It would be possible to consider undergraduate studies as human resource development. These could be sponsored with on-place grants in Thailand and the best scholars could be sent to Europe for Ph.D. studies (cooperation between Asean and European countries). Indonesia has twelve on-place scholarships p.a., managed by Dr. Edwan Kardena.

Prof. Obenaus strongly supports Prof. Piniti's initiative.

Prof. Rifa agrees that the problem is hard to solve but Asea Uninet should somehow help these countries to train PhDs.

Prof. Pichat explains that Burapha gives two scholarships.

Dr. Edwan Kardena reports that there are opportunities for UI, UGM, ITB and ITS through the Ministry of Education and funded by the government of Indonesia to invite students from Asia to study at their universities ("beasiswa unggulan"). Through this scheme ITS has been able to support one student from Thailand, one from Myanmar and one from China.

Ms. Marcella Orru remarks that the EU includes these countries with comprehensive funding and provides a suitable framework (except for Myanmar)

IV Elections

Elections took place and following decisions were made:

The National Coordinators are as follows:

Spain: Prof. Hector **Rifa**, University of Oviedo

Italy: Prof. Carla **Locatelli**, University of Trento

Denmark: Prof. Franz **Voss**, University of Southern Denmark

Russia: Prof. Nikita **Golovin**, St. Petersburg State Polytechnical University

Austria: Prof. B.M. **Rode**, University of Innsbruck

Greece: Prof. Ioannis **Gerothanassis**, University of Ioannina

Indonesia: Prof. **Edwan Kardena**, ITB, Bandung

Thailand: Prof. **Piniti Ratananukul**, University of Srinakharinwirot, Bangkok

Vietnam: Prof. Ha Duyen **Tu**, HUT, Hanoi

The Philippines: Prof. Amelia **Guevara**, University of the Philippines

Malaysia: Dr. Mohd. **Roslan Sulaiman**, University of Putra Malaysia

Pakistan: Prof. Iqbal **Choudhary**, University of Karachi

The **European Coordinator** is Prof. B.M. **Rode**, University of Innsbruck

Vice European Coordinator is Prof. Carla **Locatelli**, University of Trento

The **Regional Coordinator for Asia** is Prof. **Piniti Ratananukul**

The new **Chairman** is Prof. B.M. **Rode**, University of Innsbruck

X. Various

The next Plenary Meeting will take place in Vienna.

The next Meeting of National Coordinators will take place at the kind personal invitation of the Rector of the University of Murcia, Spain. Suggested date, 2nd week in October

The present Chairman, Prof. Ha Duyen Tu, thanked the plenum.
The new Chairman Prof. Bernd Rode encourages increased communication, reports on activities and projects and more information on the Notice Board.

It is advised that on the following day a workshop detailing European scholarships will be held.

The meeting is closed.

List of Participants and their Addresses

- Austria
 - Denmark
 - Greece
 - Indonesia
 - Italy
 - Malaysia
 - Pakistan
 - Philippines
 - Russia
 - Spain
 - Thailand
 - Vietnam
-

Organizing Committee

Prof. Ha Duyen Tu, Chairman

Prof. Bernd-Michael Rode, Coordinator for Europe

Prof. Piniti Ratananukul, Coordinator for ASEAN

Dr. Ngo Chi Trung, National Coordinator for Vietnam

Invited guests

Prof. Banh Tien Long, Vice-Minister of Education and Training Vietnam

Mr. Le Xuan Than, Vice-President of Khanh Hoa Province

Ms. Katharina Park, Austrian Embassy in Vietnam

Dr. Phan Manh Tien, Deputy Head of Undergraduate and Postgraduate Training Department, MOET Vietnam

Ms. Aporn Kanvong, Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand

Ms. Wattanasopee Suksaard, Commission on Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand

Secretariat

Ms. Margaret Ostermann, University of

Mr. Michael Dengg, AUNO

Ms. Nguyen Hong Hanh, Hanoi University of Technology

Mr. Nguyen Hoai Quan, Hanoi University of Technology