



AIMS Programme
ASEAN International Mobility for Students

Meeting Report of the 11th Review Meeting of The ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme

1-3 November 2017, Grand Inna Kuta Hotel, Bali, Indonesia

I. Introduction

- 1 The 11th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme was held on 1-3 November 2017 at the Grand Inna Kuta Hotel, Bali, Indonesia, and was co-organised and hosted by the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education (MORTHE), Indonesia. The agenda for the 11th Review Meeting appears in **Annex 1**.
- 2 The Meeting was attended by a total of 131 participants. This included government and university representatives from across the 8 Member Countries of the AIMS Programme, namely: Brunei Darussalam; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; the Philippines; the Republic of Korea (ROK); Thailand; and Vietnam. The Meeting was also attended by 1 government and 1 university representative from Singapore as a prospective member, and 2 observers from the education attaché of the embassy of Timor-Leste (Bali, Indonesia) and Asia Exchange organisation. SEAMEO RIHED's Centre Director and staff were also in attendance. The List of Participants appears in **Annex 2**.

Day 1, 1 November 2017

II. Programme Overview and Parallel Sessions

Introduction and Programme Overview *by SEAMEO RIHED*

- 3 SEAMEO RIHED provided an outline of the programme for the 3-day Meeting. It was highlighted that the first day provided an opportunity for university staff, namely, faculty and international relations offices (IROs) to discuss on implementation status, further development opportunities and network together to enhance programme offerings and effectiveness. SEAMEO RIHED's presentation appears as **Annex 3**.

Parallel Session A – Formation of University Consortia *facilitated by Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED*

- 4 Prior to the Meeting, a suggested agenda for Parallel Session A – Formation of University Consortia was disseminated to AIMS member countries and HEIs. The agenda appears as **Annex 4**.
- 5 SEAMEO RIHED invited university faculty and executives to brainstorm and discuss together on a possible structure to support further developments within each of the 10 respective study fields. It was introduced that each group may wish to explore the possibility of forming AIMS university consortia, where arrangement would be up to each individual field to decide,

acknowledging the diversity of existing arrangements, and in line with the development plan of each field.

- 6 7 groups were formed for the purposes of discussion, with each group discussing ideas for the formation of a structure to support further developments in the context of their respective discipline area. For the purposes of discussion, the International Business and Economics study field formed one larger group and the Marine Science, Environmental Science and Management, and Biodiversity study field formed one larger group.
- 7 Each group presented on their discussion and their development plan for their fields, which included outlining a structure for their proposed consortium or an alternative structure to support developments in their study field. Their presentations appear as **Annex 5**.
- 8 The *Marine Science*, *Biodiversity*, and *Environmental Science and Management* fields made a proposal to merge the 3 existing fields into 1 field; entitled "*Integrated Environmental Sciences and Management*". SEAMEO RIHED will bring to the 3rd Steering Committee Meeting of AIMS to be held in ROK in 2018.

Parallel Session B – IROs Workshop facilitated by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Surakit
Nathisuwan, Resource Person, SEAMEO RIHED

- 9 Prior to the Meeting, SEAMEO RIHED distributed a pre-meeting survey to IROs to collect information regarding programme issues to address. In total, 29 respondents provided feedback, with the top issues raised (in descending order) being: visa facilitation (62.1%), student awareness of the programme (51.7%) recruitment of students for intra-ASEAN mobility (48.3%), academic staff awareness of the programme (41.4%), communication; between home and host HEIs (37.9%), insufficient information from partner HEIs for course related issues (37.9%), and accommodation (27.6%). The presentation for the Parallel Session B with the pre-meeting survey result appears in **Annex 6**.
- 10 To begin the session, SEAMEO RIHED facilitated an ice-breaking activity to promote the interaction among participants. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nathisuwan, Resource Person for SEAMEO RIHED, Former Vice President for International Relations and Deputy Dean for Planning and Quality Development at Mahidol University then summarised the pre-meeting survey result with actual case scenarios in which IRO staff confronted challenges during programme operation. Facilitated by SEAMEO RIHED, the session then gave the opportunity for the participants to revisit the AIMS objectives and role of AIMS HEIs.
- 11 5 groups were formed for the purpose of small group discussion according to topics identified as the main issues to be addressed. The participants were encouraged to join one of the following groups: 1) Programme awareness; 2) Insufficient information on course-related issues; 3) Recruitment of students; 4) Balanced mobility; and 5) Logistical aspects of programme including visa facilitation.
- 12 Groups then selected a chair and rapporteur, identified key challenges in each of the areas, selected priorities and provided recommendations accordingly. Recommendations were

provided at 3 levels, governmental, institutional, and SEAMEO RIHED, where outputs were aimed to support reporting to ministerial level, guide the revision of the AIMS operational handbook and encourage the sharing of best practices among institutions.

- 13 At the governmental level, recommendations were put forward to support the availability of scholarships and further expansion of the programme, HEIs were encouraged to build a university agenda to enhance awareness of the programme and promote intra-ASEAN mobility institution-wide, encouraging the internationalisation of students. SEAMEO RIHED was requested to support as an information centre for the programme, developing an integrated database and upgrading the website and continuing to promote mobility as part of the regional approach to higher education development. Feedback from Session B appears in **Annex 7**.

Reflection Sharing from Parallel Sessions A and B

- 14 SEAMEO RIHED invited facilitators and participants of the Parallel Sessions to report on discussions together in the plenary session, reflecting on progress made and suggested development strategies from both sessions.

Day 2, 2 November 2017

III. Official Opening Formalities

Introductory Remarks by *Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director for SEAMEO RIHED*

- 15 Dr. Sujatanond thanked all participants for their attendance of the Meeting and unwavering support for the AIMS Programme. She shared latest developments over the past year, and summarised the programme for Day 2 and 3, discussing key items in the Meeting's agenda this year. She congratulated all member countries on their efforts thus far in promoting student mobility in the region, highlighting the Meeting's continued contributions to mobility in the region and towards further integration in line with that envisaged by the ASEAN community.

Welcoming Remarks by *Dr. Paristiyanti Nurwardani, Director of Learning, MORTHE, Indonesia*

- 16 Dr. Nurwardani welcomed all member countries to the Meeting and emphasised that the collaboration seen at the Meeting was representative of the special commitment between countries of the region to work in friendship together towards developing higher education towards greater regional prosperity. She emphasised how the programme continues to lead innovations in the region by supporting the internationalisation of HEIs and the global mindedness of students, this year, entering its 8th Year of implementation.

Welcoming Remarks by *Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat*

- 17 Dr Priowirjanto thanked all participants for joining the meeting and emphasised how the AIMS Programme supported the 7 Priority Areas of SEAMEO through enhancing mobility and

internationalisation in the region, in particular, complementing '*Priority Area 6: the harmonisation of higher education*'. He highlighted the potential for integrating E-learning and learning content more accessible for students, emphasizing the benefits for all. He congratulated all member countries on their accomplishments thus far, and wished a productive meeting to all.

Opening Remarks by *Dr Intan Ahmad, Director General of Learning and Student Affairs, MORTHE, Indonesia*

- 18 Dr Ahmad welcomed participants, stating that Indonesia was pleased and honoured to be hosting the Meeting. He emphasised the programme's role in supporting students to rise to meet challenges brought on by globalisation, creating citizens of ASEAN who would lead the development of nations towards the future. He looked forward to regional developments that would match the success of the European Bologna process, but in employing an approach which matched the requirements of the region. He hoped that connecting with one another during the Meeting would support further mobility and the continued evolution of regional higher education. He declared the Meeting officially open.

Official Programme Update by *SEAMEO RIHED*

- 19 SEAMEO RIHED provided key updates on the Programme together with the latest mobility figures for 2017. This included information on the current implementation status of the Programme, its history and development, and future development initiatives proposed. The presentation appears in **Annex 8**.

Recap from Day 1: Report Outputs from the Parallel Sessions by *Prof. Dr. James Williams, Resource Person, SEAMEO RIHED*

- 20 Prof. Williams, a professor of International Education and International Affairs at the George Washington University, U.S.A. and a former Fulbright Research Fellow scholar at SEAMEO RIHED, presented outputs and reported on the Parallel Sessions from the first day. He celebrated the work of academics and IROs, commenting on the rich exchange that took place during both sessions. He emphasised the significant strides made through the AIMS Programme in building bonds of friendship across countries of the region and fortifying existing partnerships towards even further progress. His presentation appears in **Annex 9**.

Report Outputs of the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the AIMS Programme

- 21 SEAMEO RIHED presented report outputs from the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting of the AIMS Programme, 6-7 July 2017 in Tokyo, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan. The Steering Committee's role and responsibilities were summarised. Discussions and respective decisions made during the meeting were also reported. This included sharing progress on the development of the new AIMS Handbook, updates to the list of Steering Committee, developments regarding the establishment of a Working Group to investigate the experiences and outcomes of AIMS

participating students and ROK's acceptance to host the 3rd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting in 2018. The presentation appears as **Annex 10**.

IV. National Implementation Updates

Visa and Stay Permit Information from Member Countries of AIMS

- 22 In preparation for the Meeting, each AIMS member country was requested to prepare a visa and stay permit information poster for showcasing / exhibition in order to support AIMS members in navigating the process of obtaining the visa for outbound student and stay permit for exchange.
- 23 7 AIMS Member Countries (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei Darussalam, the Philippines, Japan and ROK) presented Visa and Stay Permit Information Posters during the event. The Posters appear as **Annex 11**.

AIMS Member Country Reports on National Development Plans and Progress

facilitated by Dr. Eko Hari Purnomo, AIMS Steering Committee Member

- 24 Each AIMS Member Country was invited to report on its national development plan and progress regarding the AIMS Programme. This included: (i) an update on current status; (ii) visa and stay permit procedures for AIMS students; (iii) challenges and solutions towards national implementation; and (iv) its 5-year development plan for AIMS (2018-2023). Dr. Purnomo, AIMS Steering Committee Member and Head of International Collaboration Office at Bogor Agricultural University was moderator for the session.

a. Brunei Darussalam

- 25 Ms. Norhajjah Abdullah, Education Officer, Ministry of Education (MOE), Brunei Darussalam provided updates on current status of implementation of the AIMS Programme in Brunei Darussalam. She reported on the success of Universiti Brunei Darussalam's participation in the Programme and stated that Universiti Teknologi Brunei's would participate in exchanges in 2017. In overcoming challenges towards implementation, she highlighted the importance of clear communications between AIMS partners and supported the development of "a one-stop portal" to provide further information on exchange opportunities and deadlines and development of a student information package for dissemination to partner universities. Referring to Brunei's 5-year development plan of AIMS, she shared the aspiration to mobilise more students towards a projected number of approximately 25-55 per year. The presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

b. Indonesia

- 26 Mr. Alam Nasrah Ikhlas, Division Head of Recognition of Prior Learning, Directorate General of Learning and Student Affairs, MORTHE delivered the country presentation, providing updates on implementation status and an outline of the Indonesian higher education context. He announced the opening of the AIMS Indonesia website (available at: <http://aims.ristekdikti.go.id/>). He introduced the possibility of extending

the programme to the eastern part of Indonesia as well as Sumatra and shared national strategies to maximise programme impact and funding arrangements. He cited a number of continued challenges, including issues related to regional and international accreditation and diversity of systems, though was confident that through closer collaboration and communication such challenges could be overcome. In referencing Indonesia's 5-year plan for AIMS, he affirmed Indonesia's intention to enhance cooperation with partner universities towards a projected total of 3000 Indonesian students participating by 2019 whilst continuing to seek further ways to enhance Programme quality. The presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

c. Japan

- 27 Ms. Taka Horio, Deputy Director of the International Affairs Division, MEXT presented the country report, updating the Meeting on Japan's participation status. She highlighted that Japan's joining of the Programme had significantly increased student mobility between ASEAN and Japan, contributing to Japan's policy agenda and stronger cooperation with the Southeast Asian region. She provided details on the arrangement of Japan's national participation in the Programme, also sharing a number of good practices across HEIs and proposing a number of solutions to overcome existing challenges (encouraging student-led initiatives to promote the programme and closer cooperation and communication between HEIs). In line with Japan's 5-year plan for AIMS, she informed that despite funding from government forecast to end in 2017, MEXT had agreed to secure the scholarship budget for the Programme until 2018. She assured that, whilst government funding would cease after this, all 7 AIMS projects with 11 HEIs in Japan would continue their commitment to the Programme. The presentation appears in **Annex 14**.

d. Malaysia

- 28 Mr. Jamalulail Abu Bakar, Director, Education Malaysia Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education (MOHE) presented the country report and shared updates on the national implementation status of AIMS in Malaysia. He highlighted that Malaysia's participation in the AIMS Programme complements Malaysia's Education Blueprint (2015-2025) and, in particular, '#Shift 8: Global Prominence'. He announced the addition of a new AIMS member HEI (Universiti Malaysia Pahang) and the re-assignment of study disciplines across participating Malaysian HEIs. He cited the need to overcome continued challenges together, such as course matching issues and the need to provide a comprehensive student information package. In sharing Malaysia's 5-Year Plan for AIMS, he emphasised Malaysia's goal to increase number of participating students by 10% and raise the number of participating HEIs to 14 by 2023. He also shared the aim to restructure the available study fields being offered by Malaysian HEIs, introducing involvement in new areas. The presentation appears in **Annex 15**.

e. The Philippines

- 29 Mr. Napoleon B. Imperial, Executive Director IV, Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Chair of the Technical Working Group on AIMS for the Philippines delivered the country report. He shared updates on national implementation status, highlighting that additional provisions have been introduced to ensure quality and support implementation of the Programme (such as for HEI selection, requirements to maintain status as an AIMS

participating HEI, and new procedures for the issuance of Visa). He announced the introduction of a new AIMS Special Non-Immigrant Visa for inbound students. He shared solutions for overcoming obstacles on the Programme, such as ensuring IROs are fully-trained and to continue to seek ways to harmonise existing processes and systems between HEIs. In referring to the Philippines' 5-Year Plan for AIMS, he shared ambitions to increase the number of participating HEIs, whilst encouraging HEIs to expand into other study field areas to ensure financial sustainability for Philippines' national participation in the Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 16**.

f. Republic of Korea

- 30 Ms Sojeong Whang, Deputy Director of the International Education Cooperation Division, MOE, ROK delivered the country report, sharing updates on the Programme's national implementation status, and introducing national practices for enhancing the impact of the Programme for students. She highlighted a number of continuing challenges, such as delays to visa processing and issuance of transcripts, and scholarship imbalances (for funding support). Referring to ROK's 5-Year Plan of AIMS, she shared the MOE's aspiration to expand the number of participating HEIs, raising the number of participating students to 200 per year as well as for participating HEIs to cover all 10 of the AIMS study fields by 2019. She informed of the MOE's support for the continued development of a collaborative research project to investigate the experiences and outcomes of AIMS participating students, where it was hoped that this would contribute to boosting collaboration between ROK and other AIMS member countries. She invited Dr. Kiyong Byun from the research team to share further details on developments. The presentation appears as **Annex 17**.

g. Thailand

- 31 Mr Teeratorn Likhitphongsathorn, Educator, Professional Level from the Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), MOE presented the country report and delivered updates on the implementation status of AIMS in Thailand, highlighting Thailand's efforts to ensure balanced mobility numbers since the launch of the M-I-T student mobility programme in 2010. He highlighted a number of ongoing challenges, such as ensuring balanced mobility and effective communication channels for supporting the exchange process. In referring to Thailand's 5-Year Plan for AIMS, he shared Thailand's goal to encourage further intra-ASEAN mobility and recruit further HEIs to participate in the Programme. He also underlined Thailand's continued efforts to seek solutions to visa challenges, undertake the AIMS Thailand evaluation project (2010-2017) and prepare for the 10th Anniversary of the AIMS Programme in 2019 in Thailand. He also invited Asst. Prof. Dr. Supreedee Rittironk, Assistant to the Rector for International Affairs from Thammasat University to share best practices regarding HEI implementation. The presentations appear as **Annex 18**.

h. Vietnam

- 32 On behalf of the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET) Vietnam, Dr. Duong Van Thao, Director of International Programs Office from Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry (TUAF) was nominated to present updates on the Programme's national

implementation status in Vietnam. He summarised the programme's arrangement based on the participation of 2 HEIs in Vietnam (TUAF and Nong Lam University), and announced Vietnam's acceptance to host the 12th Review Meeting of AIMS in 2018. He highlighted a number of solutions to ongoing challenges, such as the efforts to create more free elective modules to support flexible options for students, develop further international programmes in English and ensure a comprehensive system of support for inbound students. He shared future plans for HEI involvement in the Programme, which included working to further promote student mobility in their HEIs with particular focus on mobility in ASEAN, underlining continued efforts to create a better and more supportive environment for exchange students. The presentation appears in **Annex 19**.

Singapore's Proposal to Join the AIMS Programme

- 33 Ms. Melissa Tan, Senior Manager, Higher Education Policy Division, MOE presented Singapore's proposal to participate in the AIMS Programme. She emphasised the Programme's alignment with Singapore's aim to provide education pathways that allow its citizens to further enhance soft skills, whilst also complementing Singapore's goals of deepening and diversifying its international connections. She shared that Singapore's autonomous universities offer students a wide range of exchange programmes with SEAMEO member countries and partners that fulfil AIMS Programme objectives. She clarified administrative arrangements for Singapore's participation in AIMS, explaining that each of its participating universities would have wide discretion over academic matters, negotiating individual arrangements with potential partners at their own discretion and would be responsible for providing financial assistance for deserving students. She announced Singapore's intention to officially join the Programme in 2018. The presentation appears as **Annex 20**.
- 34 Ms. Melissa Tan invited Prof. Dr. Lalit Goel, Director, Office of Global Education and Mobility, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) to present further details on university arrangements to participate in the Programme. Dr. Goel introduced NTU and clarified arrangements through which exchange could take place on the programme looking at possibilities for involvement with AIMS HEIs who are also part of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) or have existing agreements with NTU through an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). He suggested prospective NTU involvement through the assigned study fields of Engineering and Economics. He also shared information regarding the funding of exchanges, both, clarifying available financial support for outbound students, and highlighting a number of scholarship award opportunities for inbound students from ASEAN. His presentation appears as **Annex 21**.

Video Presentation of the AIMS Thailand Off-Campus Programme

- 35 Asst. Prof. Dr. Supreedee Rittironk, Assistant to the Rector for International Affairs, Thammasat University presented a short video on the Thailand Off-Campus Programme. The video promoted the need for students to have valuable opportunities to interact with one

another as well as other students and local culture in the host country. The video is available through the following link:

[https://files.mycloud.com/home.php?brand=webfiles&seuuid=08203afd6267d38abeefdc27779d7c91&name=6_Experience_Sharing_-_AIMS_Thai].

Open Session: Internal Country Discussions

- 36 AIMS Member Countries were invited to hold internal country discussions as per their own discretion and arrangement.

Day 3, 3 November 2017

V. Other Matters

Presentation of the Guidelines on Transcript for Exchange Students and Conversion Table: Lessons from the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Working Group

- 37 In accordance with a proposal during the 2nd Steering Committee Meeting, 6-7 July 2017 in Tokyo, Japan, and on behalf of the APT Working Group, Ms Taka Horio presented the Guidelines on Transcript for Exchange Students and Conversion Table and lessons learned from the APT. She introduced Prof. Dr. Taiji Hotta, Vice-Executive of International Planning, Hiroshima University and APT Expert to give supplementary details on the guidelines and the accompanying conversion table, which could serve as a reference point. The presentation appears in **Annex 22**.
- 38 AIMS Member countries and their universities were encouraged to participate in trialling the guidelines in 2018 and providing feedback on its feasibility and towards improving its effectiveness in the spirit of seeking a common ground to further support credit transfer arrangements. In this regard, it was emphasised that the guidelines were non-binding and could be trailed on a voluntary basis.
- 39 MEXT shared that it would seek to collect feedback on the trial of the guidelines from AIMS members in mid-2018.
- 40 The Meeting suggested the possibility of AIMS member HEIs collecting relevant information on national qualifications and credit arrangements and bringing together to find mutual ground at the next 12th Review Meeting to be held in Vietnam in 2018.

Presentation by the Directorate General of Immigration, Indonesia by Mr. Anggi Wicaksono, Head of Temporary Stay Visa Section

- 41 Mr. Wicaksono, Head of Temporary Stay Visa Section, Directorate General of Immigration summarised visa procedures for applicants entering Indonesia for temporary stay.

- 42 He highlighted the recommended visa type for incoming AIMS students to Indonesia is the '*Limited Stay Visa – for students*' (C316), where the application can be submitted by a guarantor (such as an Indonesian university or an Indonesian citizen) or the student themselves.
- 43 He recommended that AIMS students *do not apply for the shorter 'Visit Visa'* unless AIMS students are undertaking a 'short course of study or training' (i.e. less than 4 weeks. The presentation (which includes further details on the process and on application procedures appears as **Annex 23**.

Session with AIMS Students and Alumni facilitated by Ms. Laily Alfa Citra, International Office Manager, Binus University

- 44 During the Meeting, 3 AIMS students and 3 alumni were invited to present their experiences on the Programme and discuss possibilities for development. The session briefing appears as **Annex 24**.
- 45 Students and alumni were each invited to present and share their experiences as part of the Programme, during which they described the impact of their mobility, its perceived value, challenges and memorable recollections from their exchange. A consistent theme reported was feeling a deepened connection to new cultures and places visited. They also spoke of some of the good practices at their universities to enable them to discover and interact with their surroundings and integrate at their new study destination (such as the value of buddy systems and other mechanisms to support interaction with both international and local students). The presentations appear as **Annex 25**.
- 46 In offering ideas for developing the AIMS Programme further, suggestions were made to arrange further cultural activities and meet-ups in-country, and build social media platforms for students to tell their stories from the Programme sharing their experiences with other students, suggesting the inclusion of student testimonials on the AIMS Website.
- 47 In overcoming existing challenges, students and alumni highlighted that students still had limited connections to one another and to other alumni. The proposal was made to further strengthen the AIMS alumni network through social media pages and through organising regular AIMS alumni meet-ups and an annual conference.
- 48 SEAMEO RIHED shared the launch of the alumni Facebook group and encouraged HEIs to connect students to the page. The page is available through the following link: <https://www.facebook.com/RIHEDAIMSProgramme/>

Closing Remarks

- 49 Dr. Paristiyanti Nurwardani delivered the closing remarks. She thanked the organising team, member country ministries, speakers, moderators and all participants for their valuable

contributions to the Meeting. She shared that this year's Review Meeting had been an important one with significant strides made to strengthen the Programme's operative capacity and delivery. She observed that the Meeting had been informative and professional, and that it reflected the unique arrangement of AIMS, as a versatile Programme; and one that continues to benefit from a cooperative approach in facilitating collective inputs from all of the region's key stakeholders in higher education. She announced the closing of the Meeting and wished all participants a safe onward journey and all the best in developing the Programme further.

50 The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

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