



AIMS Programme



Meeting Report of the 12th Annual Review Meeting of The ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme

7-9 November 2018

The Army Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

INTRODUCTION

- 1 The 12th Annual Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme was held on 7-9 November 2018 at the Army Hotel in Hanoi, Vietnam. The Meeting was co-organised and hosted by the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam. The Programme appears as **Annex 1**.
- 2 The Meeting was attended by 140 participants. This includes government and HEI representatives from 8 Member Countries of the AIMS Programme, namely, Brunei Darussalam; Indonesia; Japan; Malaysia; the Philippines; the Republic of Korea; Thailand; and Vietnam. The government representative from Singapore also participated in the Meeting. In addition, the Meeting was attended by a representative of the Korean Research Team and alumni of the AIMS Programme as well as observers from Malaysia and Vietnam. The SEAMEO RIHED's Centre Director and staff were also in attendance. The List of Participants appears as **Annex 2**.

Day 1, 7 November 2018

Plenary Session

Informal Opening: Programme Overview & Expected Outcomes of Day 1

Led by SEAMEO RIHED

- 3 The session provided the overview of AIMS Programme, including its operational principles and programme development that took place since the 11th AIMS Annual Review Meeting held in 2017. The session also gave the participants the overall outline of the Meeting, highlighting that the first day of the Meeting was intended to be in the informal setting to promote an active interaction and experience-sharing among participants. It was emphasised that the main theme of the 12th AIMS Annual Review Meeting is 'Enhancing the AIMS Programme's Visibility, Communication and Alumni Network', for which participants are encouraged to discuss throughout the Meeting. The presentation appears as **Annex 3**.

Plenary Session

Interactive Introductory Session: Making sense of Regional Identity

Led by Ms. Porntip Kajananiyot, Special Advisor of SEAMEO RIHED and former Executive Director of Fulbright Thailand

- 4 The session offered an opportunity to review the current implementation of the AIMS Programme and reconsider ways to collectively reach the programme objectives. She introduced a concept of glocalisation, the simultaneous occurrence of both universalising (global) and particularising (regional/local) tendencies in contemporary social, political and economic systems, which should be integrated into the process of the AIMS Programme implementation in the region in order to ensure that the programme's objectives are effectively achieved. In this connection, the session provided the participants with the opportunity to revisit the overall objectives and underlying values of the AIMS Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 4**.
- 5 The interactive exercise conducted during the session revealed that the objectives of the AIMS Programme set by SEAMEO RIHED are not widely understood among participants. These include cultivating globalised human resources, nurturing ASEAN identity and promoting the internationalisation of higher education in the region.
- 6 In addition, the session also unveiled that the participants share the limited understanding of the management structure of AIMS Programme and relationships between programme stakeholders, in which SEAMEO RIHED, member governments and HEIs and students/alumni take respective roles and responsibilities in the programme operation.
- 7 The participants were encouraged to discuss and identify key roles of respective stakeholders in the AIMS Programme implementation. As the coordinator of the programme at the regional level, it was suggested for SEAMEO RIHED to progress the harmonisation process of credit systems within the region, which would contribute to further boosting the internationalisation of higher education across countries. The discussion recommended the AIMS member governments to share transparent and clear guidelines for immigration procedures required for AIMS participating students, to showcase the best practices conducted by member HEIs in respective countries and to enhance the selection process of member HEIs in order to ensure their active participation in the programme. On the other hand, the raising awareness and visibility of AIMS Programme at the institutional level was identified as the main responsibility of member HEIs, along with enhancing curriculum alignment among partner HEIs and capacitating their staff in providing a range of administrative support for AIMS students. Lastly, the session shared that as the key player of the programme, students/alumni are expected to bridge between home and host institutions through building community ties and sharing their own stories during the mobility. It was also suggested to institutionalise AIMS alumni body to further recognise their roles in the AIMS Programme operation.

Parallel Session

A. Faculty Group

Led by Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED

- 8 Prior to the Meeting, the discussion agenda for the Parallel Session A (Faculty Group) was disseminated to AIMS Member Countries and HEIs. The agenda appears as **Annex 5**.

- 9 Dr. Sujatanond noted that while each study field and member HEIs of AIMS Programme have been working together to enhance student mobility under respective study fields, the programme needs to expand the academic collaboration beyond mobility. It was briefed that the 11th AIMS Annual Review Meeting had invited faculty representatives to discuss a potential structure of collaboration in each study field. In view of this, the Faculty Group Session aimed to gather input from participating faculty representatives and HEI executives in expanding collaborations in the area of teaching and research.
- 10 7 groups were formed for the purpose of discussion. Each group assigned 1 note-taker and 1 rapporteur. The participants were encouraged to discuss potential collaborations in 3 aspects: teaching activities; research activities; and a structure of collaboration.
- 11 The session first discussed teaching activities, in which each group was given the opportunity to share curriculum or course description currently used for AIMS students in respective faculties to enhance the alignment among institutions. The group then identified challenges for achieving curriculum alignment within the study field and further discuss common interests where teaching collaboration can be promoted.
- 12 Each group identified a number of obstacles for enhancing curriculum alignment among member HEIs. These include a lack of course equivalency, different academic calendar and varying assessment/grading methods adopted across member HEIs. The participants also discussed that these factors serve as barriers for credit transfer arrangement, which would limit academic collaborations including student mobility. On the other hand, the groups also shared good practices and proposed suggestions to overcome the identified challenges. Some of the points emphasised include conducting course matching with peer HEIs on a regular basis, sharing curriculum or course description within study fields and enabling credits to be transferred as elective subjects.
- 13 The session also facilitated the sharing of research activities engaged by individual researchers or at the faculty level among member HEIs in respective study fields in order to promote academic collaborations beyond mobility. Each group identified challenges and opportunities for implementing research collaboration within their study field as well as good practices and strategies to bring further initiatives. For example, it was proposed to allow students participating in the AIMS programme to engage in research activities during their exchange that are specifically designed to address problems in the context of local community or host country. In addition, the participants proposed to conduct a research internship for AIMS students. To progress cross-institutional research collaborations among member HEIs, the participants also suggested utilising an online platform to share relevant information particularly regarding research grants, joint research projects, researcher mobility and other collaboration opportunities.
- 14 With regard to the formation of a structure to support collaborations, 5 out of 7 study fields agreed that there is no need to establish a consortium. They proposed to further strengthen teaching and research collaborations by utilising the existing AIMS network and platform.
- 15 The Economics and International Business agreed to form a structure, namely, AIMS Business and Economics Network, whose aim is to expand the academic cooperation beyond Asian reaching out to potential partners in Europe, the United States of America and Australia. It was informed that the Republic of Korea will be the Chair of the network in 2019 while Malaysia will serve as the Vice-Chair and take a role of the Chair in 2020. Furthermore, the network appointed Indonesia and Malaysia to be the Secretariat of the network.

- 16 It was reported that the Cluster of Integrated Science Management had been formed among Environmental Management, Biodiversity and Marine Science to promote course alignment and research collaborations within member HEIs. It was informed that the cluster will be headed by Mae Fah Luang University, Thailand, during 2018-2020 and the responsibility will be rotated every 2 years.

Parallel Session

B. IRO Group

Led by Ms. Porntip Kajananiyot, Special Advisor of SEAMEO RIHED and former Executive Director of Fulbright Thailand

- 17 Prior to the Meeting, SEAMEO RIHED circulated an online pre-meeting survey to identify the AIMS Programme promotion practices and platforms for visibility currently used by the AIMS member HEIs. In view of the crucial roles of IRO in enhancing the programme's visibility and awareness, the Parallel Session B (IRO Group) aimed to determine the way forward towards making the AIMS programme more visible with information accessible to the relevant stakeholders and to discuss the IRO's role in achieving the objectives of the AIMS Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 6**.
- 18 At the beginning of the session, Ms. Kanjananiyot summarised the results of the online survey, for which approximately a half of member HEIs had provided responses. The survey results showed that the 3 most relevant platforms for Programme promotion were the IROs (85.3%), faculty members (79.4%) and fellow students and alumni (55.9%), respectively. On the other hand, online tools, such as Facebook (52.9%) and websites (52.9%), were the most utilised promotional instruments for enhancing the Programme visibility, while organising events (50%) and developing posters (47.1%) were also frequently used as communication platforms to reach out to students. In terms of student recruitment for the programme participation, an open application is adopted by a majority of member HEIs (85.3%). Lastly, according to the survey data, 96.7% of the respondents are confident that they ensure that students get sufficient knowledge about the AIMS Programme when they participate in the programme.
- 19 Proceeding with the session, the facilitator encouraged a group sharing of the promotional materials and practices that they thought were effective in their respective HEIs. Some of the most relevant practices included maintaining online visibility through the university website and social media, as well as having a mobility coordinator for each faculty to disseminate information prepared by the IRO.
- 20 In exploring ways to enhance the programme visibility, the session discussed that promotion should target the intended audiences. Given the general tendency that students are technology-oriented and a financial arrangement is often their primary concern, promotional strategies take these into account, particularly by providing all necessary information online while emphasising the word "scholarship" in promotional materials.
- 21 The participants also filled a self-assessment list to reflect on their current performance in terms of programme promotion and implementation, which enabled them to identify key areas that need to be improved. The facilitator encouraged the IROs to work on their respective areas for improvement back in their home HEIs to maintain a quality-led Programme implementation.

- 22 Another issue identified during the session was the management of expectations between HEIs and students. The discussion revealed that HEIs often expect students to excel academically through participating in the AIMS Programme while the student expectation mainly focused on exploring new environments. The session highlighted the role of the IRO in filling these gaps and bridging expectations.
- 23 Lastly, the participants were given the opportunity to revisit the overarching objectives of the AIMS Programme, which articulate to cultivate globalized human resources, nurture the ASEAN identity, and build a regional common space. The session emphasised the necessity of the IRO's proactive involvement in achieving these objectives as they are in the forefront of the programme implementation with a highly strategic role in ensuring that the operation at the institutional level is well aligned with the AIMS objectives defined at the regional scope.

Plenary Session

Sharing Outcomes of Parallel Session A and B

- 24 SEAMEO RIHED invited participants of the Parallel Sessions to report on discussions in the plenary session, reflecting on identified challenges, suggested recommendations and strategies.

Day 2, 8 November 2018

Plenary Session

Official Opening

- 25 Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED, delivered the introductory remarks conveying the appreciation to participants for their attendance of the Meeting and continued support for the AIMS Programme. She expressed her gratitude to the Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam, for co-hosting the Meeting. It was noted that this year marks the 9th year of AIMS Programme implementation for which member governments, HEIs and students have been playing proactive roles in operating the Programme at the respective levels. She also shared the latest development of the Programme over the past year, and emphasised the visibility of the AIMS Programme as the main theme of the 12th AIMS Annual Review Meeting.
- 26 In his opening remarks, Dr. Tran Anh Tuan, Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, MOET, Vietnam, welcomed all member countries to the Meeting and noted the Programme's expansion over the course of the previous implementation. He emphasised how student mobility serves as an important instrument for HEIs to progress internationalisation, which would further contribute to harmonising higher education systems in the region.

Plenary Session

Programme Overview and Update

Presented by SEAMEO RIHED

- 27 SEAMEO RIHED provided the overview and key updates on the Programme. It was briefed how the Programme has been developing since its launch in 2010 with its underlying core principles that make

the Programme mutually beneficial among member countries on the sustainable-basis. The presentation also offered the latest figures of mobility, which includes the figure of balanced mobility at the country level, discipline-based mobility and cumulative student participation. The presentation appears as **Annex 7**.

- 28 SEAMEO RIHED also reported the outputs of the 3rd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting that took place on 5-6 July 2018 in Incheon, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Republic of Korea, and Korean Council for University Education (KCUE). The presentation briefed the roles and responsibilities of Steering Committee as well as the main discussions and respective decisions made. This includes the modification of name and logo of the AIMS Programme in relation to the programme expansion and the anniversary of its 10-year implementation, AIMS Operational Handbook and the updates on the official AIMS website.
- 29 In addition, it was informed that based on the discussion at the 3rd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting, SEAMEO RIHED had conducted the online survey to take stock of the existing challenges related to visa for inbound and outbound students participating in the AIMS Programme. Upon the data collection and analysis, SEAMEO RIHED summarised visa issues identified by the member HEIs and suggested recommendations to overcome challenges.

Plenary Session

Country Report: National Development Plan and Progress

Moderated by Ms. Phunyanuch Pattanotai, Programme Director, SEAMEO RIHED

- 30 The session presented an opportunity for ministry representatives of AIMS member countries to share a national update of AIMS Programme implementation, including relevant policy changes, progress and challenges as well as recommendations. In particular, the session invited each country to discuss and elaborate following points: 1) AIMS implementation updates; 2) number of AIMS participating students for the year 2017 and 2018; 3) awareness and visibility of the AIMS Programme; and 4) challenges and recommendations.
- i. Brunei Darussalam
- 31 Mrs. Dayangku Siti Khairunisa Adibah, Special Duties Officer, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam, presented the country report, providing the overview of the country's participation in the AIMS Programme. It was informed that there had been no change made on nominated HEIs, funding criteria and allocation on its member HEIs. She highlighted efforts taken at the institutional level to enhance the awareness and visibility of the AIMS Programme, for which University Brunei Darussalam communicates with peer HEIs to promote available courses and scholarship schemes for AIMS students. In terms of recommendations to improve the Programme's visibility as a region, she suggested to regularly circulate the updated list of AIMS focal points and also share figures that inform the mobility tendency within the Programme (e.g. the discipline-based student participation). The presentation appears as **Annex 8**.

ii. Indonesia

- 32 Mr. Alam Nasrah Ikhlas, Division Head of Recognition of Prior Learning, Directorate General of Learning and Student Affairs, Ministry of Research, Technology, and Higher Education (MORTHE), Indonesia, delivered the country report. It was informed that while the MOETHE expects a budget reduction for student mobility programmes in 2019, a number of alternative financing schemes are being considered to continue to support the AIMS Programme. In addition, he reported that a proposal had been submitted by Padjajaran University and Sepuluh November Institute of Technology to join the AIMS Programme, which may be added as new member HEIs in 2019. In order to promote the awareness of AIMS Programme at the national level, the MORTHE disseminates relevant information on the ministry website and through the Indonesian AIMS Programme website created by the MORTHE. Furthermore, students who participated in the AIMS Programme are requested to produce a short video clip to enhance the knowledge about the Programme through sharing their mobility experience, which is published on the MORTHE's YouTube channel for reaching out to a wide range of audiences. The presentation appears as **Annex 9**.

iii. Japan

- 33 Mr. Tetsuhito Minami, Deputy Director, Office for International Planning, Higher Education Policy Planning Division, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, presented the country report. He informed that the ministry had provided AIMS member HEIs with a financial support during the period of 2013-2017, after which each HEI is expected to continue the participation to the Programme with its own funding arrangement. With the objective to improve the Programme implementation, the ministry reviews the implementation status every year while the official evaluation of the programme had taken place in 2015 and 2018. He shared, in terms of promoting the AIMS Programme, that most AIMS member HEIs in Japan conduct a study abroad fair where students are invited to obtain the knowledge of AIMS Programme through sharing relevant information and experience of students who participated in the Programme in the past. In addition, apart from the promotion of the Programme on each HEI's website, a number of member HEIs also utilize social media as a platform to bridge between AIMS alumni and newly participating students in exchanging the information about host countries and HEIs. The presentation appears as **Annex 10**.

iv. Republic of Korea

- 34 Mr. Dong Seok Seo, Director of Korean Council for University Education, Republic of Korea, delivered the country report. He reported that an internal meeting is conducted twice a year among the member HEIs in the Republic of Korea to reflect on current challenges, share good practices and discuss further improvements. As mechanisms to ensure the sound implementation of the Programme, the Programme operation is reviewed on an annual basis while the final review meeting is conducted every year to consolidate annual achievements and future development plans. In addition, he shared that a student survey is implemented as a means to obtain feedback from students on issues to be addressed by HEIs. It was informed that the government plans to select 6 more HEIs as new members to join the Programme in 2019, which would further enhance the programme visibility and awareness at the national level. The presentation appears as **Annex 11**.

v. Malaysia

- 35 Mrs. Nordiana Binti Mohd Nordin, Executive Secretary of AIMS Malaysia, presented the country report. She shared the update of the national implementation status, highlighting a series of initiatives to enhance a quality of programme implementation led by the AIMS Malaysia Committee, whose members consist of representatives from all AIMS member HEIs in the country. The recently conducted initiatives include the AIMS Malaysia Monitoring and Benchmarking Programme, outcomes of which will be shared with the ministry stakeholders to highlight the significance of AIMS Programme. It was informed that the AIMS Malaysia Committee suggests combining the Biodiversity, Marine Science and Environmental Science and Management fields into a single study field. In terms of the awareness raising of the Programme, she shared a number of efforts at the institutional level led by member HEIs, including the event organisation such as the International Culture Festival and Global Café that invite both local and international students to encourage more student participation to the Programme. She also informed that in view of the 10-year anniversary of the Programme implementation, Malaysia plans to launch various activities, one of which is to conduct IRO workshops where all AIMS member HEIs are invited to take part in. The presentation appears as **Annex 12**.

vi. Philippines

- 36 Atty. Lily Freida M. Milla, Director III, International Affairs Staff, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Philippines, delivered the country report. She informed that there had been an adjustment of funding arrangement to enable outbound students to request initial reimbursements to the CHED upon their arrival to a home HEI. She also shared that additional provisions have been introduced to ensure that adequate facilities and a mechanism to support a multi-cultural environment are both provided in member HEIs. She announced that a discussion is on progress in CHED whether to additionally assign new study fields to member HEIs (i.e. adding the Biodiversity and Environmental Management and Science to Central Mindanao University, and adding the Biodiversity to Central Luzon State University). In referring to the initiatives to promote the visibility of the Programme, she highlighted a number of efforts, including the information-sharing on the AIMS Philippines Facebook Page, facilitating AIMS alumni to share their mobility experience at the International Week, and organising IRO workshops and seminars for AIMS member HEIs at the national level. The presentation appears as **Annex 13**.

vii. Singapore

- 37 Ms. Zhao Zhin Joanna Lim, Senior Manager, Higher Education Policy Division, Ministry of Education (MOE), Singapore, presented the county report. Updating the current preparation status of the country's participation to the Programme, she informed that the MOE is engaging potential member HEIs to discuss details concerning their participation. It was explained that upon the guidance of the government, each participating HEI will directly negotiate arrangements with peer HEIs in the AIMS Programme and provide a financial support to outbound students as necessary. She also shared that HEIs confront a lack of on-campus accommodations for international students during academic terms, suggesting to allow summer or short programmes to be implemented within the AIMS Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 14**.

viii. Thailand

- 38 Ms. Lakhana Dockiao, Director of Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Ministry of Education, Thailand, delivered the country presentation. She shared the detail of the financial support given to each member HEI and selection criteria used to ensure the well-preparedness of member HEIs in participating in the student exchange. She emphasised that enhancing communication is a key to promoting the visibility of the Programme. In Thailand, a number of communication platforms have been set up at the policy level between the OHEC and member HEIs, one of which is a clearing-house system whereby Programme stakeholders explore ways to maximise the student participation in accordance with a quota provided by the government. In addition, she highlighted that international exhibitions and expo have been organised to promote the Programme's awareness and encourage more students to join the Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 15**.

ix. Vietnam

- 39 On behalf of Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam, Dr. Duong Van Thao, Deputy Director, Office of Research & International Affairs, Thai Nguyen University of Agriculture and Forestry, was nominated to present the update of Programme implementation in Vietnam. He summarised the arrangement of the Programme implementation at the national level and the latest figure of student participation. He highlighted an initiative to establish an AIMS scholarship scheme in the country to financially support student participation as there is currently no funding assistance provided by the government. He also informed that in response to problems related to visa, there has been a consultation taking place with relevant government authorities to set up a legal framework in order to facilitate a visa grant for AIMS students. Furthermore, he raised a number of ongoing challenges, emphasising that the communication needs to be enhanced between the ministry and member HEIs as well as among the HEIs. The presentation appears as **Annex 16**.

Plenary Session

Sharing Insight from Other Mobility Initiative - Campus Asia

Presented by Mr. Dong Seok Seo, Director, Korean Council for University Education, Republic of Korea

- 40 Mr. Dong Seok Seo, Director, Korean Council for University Education, Republic of Korea, delivered the presentation to share details and outcomes of the CAMPUS Asia Program, the trilateral student mobility program among China, Japan and Republic of Korea. The presentation appears as **Annex 17**.
- 41 He introduced that the program currently offers the mobility opportunity within 17 consortia that cover a wide range of discipline areas. He highlighted that as distinctive features of CAMPUS Asia, the program provides dual degree study programs and also conducts joint curriculum to create a new learning model for international students (e.g. tailored summer intensive courses).
- 42 It was shared that while promoting student mobility through the dual degree, semester-long exchange and short-term exchange that are primarily focused on the graduate level, the program had established

a quality assurance mechanism in which QA agencies from respective countries jointly conduct a monitoring to ensure the quality of the curriculum.

Open Session

In-Country Open Discussion

- 43 AIMS member governments and HEIs were invited to hold internal country discussions as per their own discretion and arrangement.

Day 3, 9 November 2018

Plenary Session

Update of the Collaborative Research Project to Measure the Experiences of AIMS Participating Students

Presented by Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont, Chair of Research Working Group and Prof. Dr. Ee Gyeong Kim, Korean Research Team Member

- 44 The Meeting invited Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont and Prof. Dr. Ee Gyeong Kim to deliver the update of the collaborative research project to measure the experiences of students participating in the AIMS Programme. The presentation appears as **Annex 18**.
- 45 Asst. Prof. Dr. Romyen Kosaikanont presented the background and overall progress of the project. With the overall objective to better understand and improve the experiences and outcomes of AIMS students, the project has developed a survey instrument in order to collect and analyse data from programme participants. It was briefed that at the 2nd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting held in 2017 in Japan, the project had established the Research Working Group whose members are nominated by respective AIMS member countries as the main body to execute the project. She informed that the survey instrument and administration plan developed by the Research Working Group had been approved at the 3rd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting held in 2018 in the Republic of Korea, upon which the survey had been implemented in each country to collect data.
- 46 Prof. Dr. Ee Gyeong Kim informed that a total of 501 respondents from 49 HEIs in 8 countries had participated in the survey and summarised its key findings. The result indicated the high level of satisfaction among programme participants with regards to multiple aspects of the programme, which implies that efforts made by IRO and faculty staff at member HEIs had served as an important cornerstone for providing the quality academic experience through the programme. In addition, she summarised that the AIMS Programme has been successful in fulfilling its objectives to a certain extent as the survey identified the tendency among programme participants to emphasise intercultural outcomes during their mobility experience.
- 47 Furthermore, it was revealed that programme participants from home universities, administrative and faculty staff were the most influential sources of information about the programme while other communication channels such as AIMS official website remained less significant in this aspect.

- 48 The presentation noted that although the data currently available provides valuable insights, further collaborative research efforts will be needed to maximise the understanding of experiences and outcomes the AIMS Programme offers to students.

Plenary Session

AIMS Alumni Session: How My International Experience Was Valued in Pursuing Future Career

*Facilitated by Ms. Nitchata Chumjai, Programme Officer, SEAMEO RIHED and
Mr. Vo Tran Trung Nhan, Programme Officer, SEAMEO RIHED*

- 49 The Meeting invited 5 alumni on the stage to present their experience on the programme with an emphasis on skill and knowledge they had acquired while studying abroad and its impact on their employability. The alumni representatives were from Indonesia, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. In addition, 1 alumna from Japan took part in the session via a video presentation. The session guideline appears as **Annex 19**.
- 50 The alumni were each invited to share their experience during their exchange, focusing on how they had acquired international experience through being exposed to a multicultural learning environment. They spoke of some of the good practices of extra-curricular activities at their host institutions that had provided an opportunity to support interaction with local and other international students. The session also discussed a good example of extended academic collaboration, including providing a support for a student to co-author an academic journal article jointly with home and host institutions.
- 51 In discussing the perceived impact of mobility experience on a future career, they presented that their international experience obtained under the AIMS Programme was highly valued by employers, therefore, resulting in their increased employability. In particular, the programme had provided them with an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones where different norms and expectations coexist. It was noted that the experience had served to expand their perspectives and nurture skills to overcome challenges and find solutions, which had also enhanced their competitiveness in the labour market.

Plenary Session

Our Way Ahead: Expanding Out To Broader Collaborations

Led by Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED

- 52 Extracting the main outputs from discussions explored throughout the Meeting, the session offered an opportunity to discuss how the AIMS Programme can serve as a platform to expand cross-border collaboration within and beyond the region and further contribute to the harmonisation of higher education. The presentation appears as **Annex 20**.
- 53 As a means to enhance the visibility of the programme and connectivity among stakeholders, the Meeting agreed that it is crucial to complete the Member University Profile information on the official AIMS website, which would include course/curriculum information, academic calendar, AIMS focal

point details, accommodation options and additional expenses students may be required to pay. The Meeting took note that SEAMEO RIHED is tasked to take a lead with a support from member HEIs and governments.

- 54 The Meeting also took note that based on the statistical data on AIMS participating students submitted by member governments, SEAMEO RIHED will conduct additional comparative analyses to identify mobility tendencies in a more diverse manner. It was also highlighted that the analysis outputs could be utilised to develop infographics or publications that may serve to improve the programme visibility in the region.
- 55 The Meeting was informed of the suggestion to combine the Marine Science and Biodiversity as there had been limited mobility taking place in Marine Science during the past 2 years. In addition, the Meeting also proposed to combine the Economics and International Business. It was noted that SEAMEO RIHED will bring the abovementioned matters to the Steering Committee for the decision-making.
- 56 Reflecting the discussion at the Parallel Session A (Faculty Group), Dr. Sujatanond highlighted the need to strengthen academic collaborations beyond mobility within the AIMS community, particularly in the area of teaching and research. The Meeting took note of the need for member HEIs to work together to align curriculum or courses and expand research collaborations across HEIs within respective study fields.
- 57 In delivering discussion outputs of the Parallel Session B (IRO Group), she emphasised a role of IRO in achieving the overall objectives of AIMS Programme apart from administrative support for inbound and outbound students. The Meeting also took note of the IRO's role in enhancing the programme visibility and awareness among stakeholders at the institutional level, particularly among prospective participants of the programme.
- 58 In view of the 10th year of programme implementation and the geographical expansion of the programme, Dr. Sujatanond informed of the Meeting that the alternative name of the programme had been discussed at the 3rd AIMS Steering Committee Meeting held in July 2018 in the Republic of Korea. She announced that the Steering Committee had agreed to adopt the Asian International Mobility for Students Programme as the new programme name while the acronym would still remain AIMS. It was informed that the new name will come in effect in 2019 from the 13th AIMS Annual Review Meeting onward.

Plenary Session

The arrangement of the 13th AIMS Annual Review Meeting and the 10-Year Anniversary Event

Presented by Ms. Lakhana Dockiao, Director of Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, Office of the Higher Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand

- 59 The Meeting was informed of the planned arrangement of the 13th AIMS Annual Review Meeting and the AIMS 10th Year Anniversary Event, which is scheduled to be held on 13-15 November 2019 in

Bangkok, Thailand. The session first presented the promotional video of the anniversary event that introduces the main activities and timeline for the preparation. The presentation appears as **Annex 21**.

- 60 The session shared that the programme will consist of following activities: 1) AIMS Logo Design Contest; 2) SEA Speech Contest; 3) SEA Student Forum, and 4) 13th AIMS Annual Review Meeting. In addition, the host will call for the support from member countries to compile the anniversary video clip, details of which will be disseminated with a guideline in due course.
- 61 In preparing the AIMS Logo Contest, the session informed that SEAMEO RIHED will disseminate details and criteria to member countries. The selection process will consider votes from both member governments and HEIs while the final decision will be made at the Steering Committee.
- 62 In addition, it was notified that SEAMEO RIHED will circulate details of SEA Speech Contest and SEA Student Forum among member countries in May 2019. Each member country will be asked to nominate 1 student representative to present at the Speech Contest and 2 student representatives to participate in the Student Forum.

Date and Venue of the 14th AIMS Annual Review Meeting

- 63 The Meeting announced that the Commission of Higher Education, the Philippines, had graciously accepted to host the 14th AIMS Annual Review Meeting in 2020.

Plenary Session **Closing Remarks**

- 64 On behalf of the host, Dr. Pham Quang Hung, Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Education and Training (MOET), Vietnam, delivered the closing remarks. He extended his appreciation to the organising team, member country governments and all participants for their valuable input during the Meeting. He emphasised that the 12th AIMS Annual Review Meeting had provided programme stakeholders with an opportunity to network with each other and engage in discussions for identifying common challenges and improving the programme implementation. He concluded the remarks wishing that the AIMS Programme continues to serve as a multilateral platform for strengthening higher education development and cooperation in the region and beyond.
- 65 The Meeting was adjourned at 12:00 pm.