

Report of
The Eighth Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students Programme
2-3 December 2014
Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam

Introduction

1. The 8th Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme was held at the Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam, on 2 December 2014 with university visits to Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Institut Teknologi Brunei on 3 December 2014.
2. The Meeting was attended by 132 participants, including delegates from the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam; the Ministry of Research, Technology and Higher Education, Indonesia; the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan; the Ministry of Education, Malaysia; the Commission on Higher Education, the Philippines; the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand; representatives from participating universities in Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam; and the Acting Interim Director, Special Advisor and staffs of SEAMEO RIHED.
3. The list of delegates are included in *Annex I*.

Opening Ceremony

4. Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee, MD, Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board and Secretary-General of Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, greeted delegates to the 8th Review Meeting and the stakeholders of the AIMS Programme. At the meeting, Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn shared the policy perspectives on the ASEAN student exchange. The necessities of having student exchange among ASEAN countries is recognized as a key mechanism to foster people-to-people linkage, he further stressed. Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn elaborated that to enhance the attractiveness and visibility of ASEAN student mobility worldwide, strategic plans need to be set by means of encouraging the development of joint programmes, integrated courses and joint researches of common interests. He emphasized that the development, implementation and the sustainability of the AIMS Programme require continued commitment and consensus from all the member countries. Lastly, Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn expressed his appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam and Universiti Brunei Darussalam for hosting the 8th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme, and thanked SEAMEO RIHED for co-organizing the event.
5. Dato Paduka Dr Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) and Vice Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam welcomed policy makers and representatives of higher education institutions from the 7 AIMS member countries. He emphasized the significant role of university in the 21st Century to respond to the needs and demands of the knowledge economy. He also addressed that pedagogies must be the provision of increasing opportunities for leadership, entrepreneurship, innovation, and experiential learning, in order to address the needs of preparing competitive future graduates. Dato Dr. Haji Zulkarnain further briefed to the Meeting regarding the GenNEXT Programme carried out by Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and its trans-disciplinary approach to education that insists on innovation, local and international engagement

and service, and leadership. AIMS plays a significant role in instilling global citizenship and smoothens the integration of ASEAN Community. At the end of his Welcoming Remarks, Dato Dr. Haji Zulkarnain expressed his appreciation for the efforts made by SEAMEO RIHED to increase mobility in the ASEAN region and beyond.

6. In his Opening Remarks, Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam welcome all the delegates to Brunei Darussalam for this important gathering co-hosted by UBD and Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam and supported by SEAMEO RIHED. He mentioned that the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) programme is recognized as a key strategic element of cooperation leading to the development of a harmonized higher education environment in ASEAN, in turn to achieving an open space for higher education. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar highlighted the achievements of the AIMS Programme with over 700 student exchanges under the programme and by 2014, there are 61 ASEAN universities participated in the Programme. He further discussed the importance of creating roadmap to sustain connectivity, unity and prosperity to achieve the main goal of developing ASEAN higher education open space. In addition, he encouraged the AIMS Programme to continue to diversify and expand its reach throughout ASEAN, through the inclusion of even more participating universities, disciplines, and approaches. Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar concluded his Opening Remarks by addressing the AIMS Review Meeting as the key to realize shared vision, mission and commitments. He hoped delegates will make use of this open dialogue to empower ASEAN Connectivity. Lastly, Pehin Dato Haji Awang Abu Bakar declared the 8th Review Meeting of the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme open.
7. YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong presented tokens of appreciation to SEAMEO RIHED and Assoc. Prof. Kamjorn Tatiyakavee, MD, Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board, in appreciation for the contribution in organizing the AIMS Review Meeting and facilitating the AIMS Programme.
8. On behalf of the delegation, SEAMEO RIHED presented token of appreciation to the Guest of Honor and the Hosts for their hospitality and efforts in hosting the 8th AIMS Review Meeting.

Overall Programme Update: Promoting programme advantages & tackling existing challenges

9. Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Special Advisor, SEAMEO RIHED, expressed her appreciation to the hosts, her sincere gratitude to Yang Berhormat Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr.) Haji Awang Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam and Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Zulkarnain bin Haji Hanafi, the Permanent Secretary (Higher Education) and Vice Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, as well as welcomed all participants to the Meeting. An overview of the Programme achievements was presented, detailing the core value and strengths of the AIMS Programme. Dr. Chantavit officially announced the participation of Institut Teknologi Brunei (ITB) as a new participating university of the AIMS Programme. She further briefed the meeting about the expected outputs from the 8th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme, which include the topic of study field expansion, programme structure, programme certificate and logo, core courses of each study field, and the development of iAward Project.

10. The complete details of the Overall Programme Update appear in *Annex II*.

Plenary Session: Country Progress and Development Plans

11. The Plenary Session on the topic of “National Programme Development: Nurturing foresight into action” was jointly chaired by Hajah Anis Faudzulani binti Hj Dzulkiilee, Senior Special Duties Officer, Head of Higher Education Division, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam Dr. Abby Tan, Director of Global Relations, Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor [Global Affairs], Universiti Brunei Darussalam. The session was attended by experts and policy makers from six member countries.

12. Plenary Session was organized to provide an opportunity for member countries to share the latest policy development regarding student mobility and enhance the sustainability of the Programme.

Thailand

13. Ms. Chadarat Singhaddechakul, Director of Bureau of International Cooperation Strategy, Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand, reported that, in 2014, there were 178 students exchanged under the AIMS Programme, which comprised 80 outbound and 98 inbound students. She, then, introduced the action plan 2015 of Thailand to the Meeting, which includes the target number of outgoing students in 2015, across disciplines student exchange, as well as follow-up and evaluation. In addition, Ms. Chadarat raised the concern regarding challenges and obstacles of exchanging student and programme management at both institutional and national level. Lastly, she outlined the 2nd five-year development plan (2015-2019) of the AIMS Programme.

Malaysia

14. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jaafar Jantan, Director of Academic Development Management Division, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Malaysia, presented the current settings of the AIMS Programme in Malaysia. He reported to the Meeting that there were 245 students exchanged under the AIMS Programme in 2014, including 146 inbound and 99 outbound students. Challenges and obstacles are also brought up to the Meeting and requested for attention and further discussion. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Jaafar then presented the proposals regarding the 2nd five-year development plan (2015-2019) to the meeting, which included the target number of students, budget allocation, as well as monitoring, evaluation and benchmarking of the AIMS Programme.

Indonesia

15. Dr. Illah Sailah, Directorate of Learning and Student Affairs, Directorate General of Higher Education, Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Technology, Republic of Indonesia, provided the Meeting with the number of exchanged students in 2014, which included 108 inbound and 91 outbound students. She further elaborated Indonesian’s National Action Plan for implementing the AIMS Program from 2015 onwards, with the concerns of targetted number of students, budget allocation, and the proposal of expansion to internship programme and staff mobility.

Brunei Darussalam

16. Dr. Abby Tan, Director of Global Relations, Office of Assistant Vice Chancellor [Global Affairs], Universiti Brunei Darussalam, briefed the Meeting on the implementation of the AIMS Programme in the Universiti Brunei Darussalam. As a new member, UBD faces a number of challenges, including incompatible credit transfer, courses mapping, incompatible academic calendar, language barrier, and so on. He then proposed to the Meeting to consider the expansion of the AIMS Programme to include more study fields and member countries, so as to provide online platform to ease the student applications.

Philippines

17. Mr. Napoleon B. Imperial, Deputy Executive Director, Commission on Higher Education, the Philippines detailed the implementation of the AIMS Programme in the Philippines in 2014. By the end of this year, there are 4 new universities starting to exchange students with other AIMS participating universities. Currently, the Commission on Higher Education are preparing allocation of the operational fund as well as developing the AIMS Handbook to be in line with the other AIMS member countries. Lastly, he addressed that experiences shared from Malaysia, Thailand, and Indonesia will be beneficial to the implementation of the AIMS Programme in the Philippines.

Japan

18. Mr. Kuniaki Sato, Deputy Director of the Higher Education Policy and Planning Division, Higher Education Bureau, the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, briefed the Meeting on the number of students exchanged. By 2014, in total, there were 304 students participating in the AIMS Programme, with 167 outbound and 127 inbound students. He emphasized that since the AIMS is regarded as an equally financing programme for each government, MEXT considers to keep this feature and its support for the 2nd five-year. Mr. Kuniaki then shared the challenges and obstacles facing by Japan at both national and institutional level, such as difference of academic calendar and imbalanced financial support.
19. The Meeting took notes of the challenges and obstacles shared by the member countries and designated SEAMEO RIHED to consult closely with the government of member countries and facilitate the improvement of the AIMS Programme. Complete papers and presentations in the plenary session are included in Annex III.

Concurrent Sessions: Ministry and University Groups

20. The parallel sessions provided an opportunity for close consultation among participants to discuss operational issues and programme development.

Ministry Representatives and University IROs

21. Led by Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Special Advisor, SEAMEO RIHED, delegates from respective Ministries and university IROs, discussed 7 agendas as appeared below.

Additional Field of Study

22. With the Programme goal of expanding the AIMS study fields from 7 to 10 disciplines, 11 study fields were proposed at the 7th Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme, which are Biodiversity, Marine Science, Forestry, Bio-medicine, Accounting, Waste Management, Disaster Management, Alternative Energy, Medical Technology, Logistics, and Environmental Science and Management. The Meeting collectively selected Environmental Science and Management, Biodiversity and Marine Science as the three additional study fields under the AIMS Programme. Accounting and Logistics are added to Economics while Forestry added to Agriculture.

Programme Structure

23. Regarding Programme management, issue of a niche of field of expertise was raised for participating countries deliberation when matching university strength on the field specified. The concern of diluting and distribution of exchange student intake among universities in the same country was also pointed out. However, considering variation in government-university relations, a university can communicate with the Ministry and make appropriate actions. The Meeting suggested to retain the current setting of the AIMS Programme. Each of the participating university can be designated with more than one study field.

AIMS Programme Certificate and AIMS Programme Logo

24. The Meeting requested SEAMEO RIHED to take charge of designing the AIMS logo with options. By the next review meeting, member countries will make decision on the provided AIMS logo options.
25. The Meeting agreed to have the AIMS Logo and SEAMEO RIHED Logo presented at the top of the AIMS Certificate. The content of the Certificate will follow the previously agreed template. Template of the AIMS Certificate is included in Annex IV.

iAward Programme

26. Considering the expansion of the AIMS member countries, and the cost of the iAward Programme, AIMS member countries agree that iAward Programme can be dropped for the time being. Thus, the Meeting encouraged SEAMEO RIHED to initiate a new programme with consideration on monitoring function focusing on academic aspect such as quality of learning, as well as assessing the performance of international relation offices.

AIMS Review Meeting (2015-)

27. It was agreed at the 7th AIMS Review Meeting to reduce frequency of organizing the AIMS Review Meeting to only once a year, but to lengthen the Meeting to 3 days with concurrent sessions of government representatives, academic and IROs staff. In terms of the Review Meeting in 2015, Japan is considering to host the 9th AIMS Review Meeting. The Meeting requested SEAMEO RIHED to liaise with Japan for further arrangement. Meanwhile, Malaysia is planning to host the 10th AIMS Review Meeting in 2016.

Programme Management and Improvement Issues

28. SEAMEO RIHED took note of the suggestion made by the member countries, including 1) standardized services and facilities provided for inbound students; 2) basic and complete information about AIMS universities for inbound students; 3) harmonization of credit transfer; 4) accessibility and availability of the courses.

University Representatives Responsible for Academic Affairs

29. University representatives responsible for Academic Affairs were arranged by field of study and discussed the common core courses in each of the study field. The common core courses under each study field are listed as shown below:

Language and Culture:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Language of the host country, Culture of the host country, Arts and Design, Understanding the belief system in the host country.

International Business:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Macro Economics and Micro Economics, Principles of Marketing, Human Resource Management, International Business Management, Management & Organizational Behavior, Global Marketing Strategy, Operational Management, Strategic Management.

Agriculture:

It is collectively agreed that each programme needs to share and upload the course description and study plan on the AIMS Website for course matching. Academic concerns were raised regarding credit transfer, study plan & academic calendar.

Hospitality and Tourism:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Introduction to Hospitality, IT for Hospitality, Travel Tour Agency, Tourism Geography, Destination Planning, Tourism and Consumer Behavior, Hotel Management and Hotel Marketing.

Food Science and Technology:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Food Chemistry, Production Engineering, Food Safety and Biochemistry.

Economics:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Mathematical Economics, Secondary Economics, Development Economics and Economy in the host country.

Engineering:

Collectively agreed common core courses are Exposure to Industry, Health and Safety, Environmental Science, Renewable Energy, Advanced Materials, Technical Communications and Design Modeling.

Wrap-up and Closure

30. Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond thanked all the participants of the concurrent sessions for providing constructive suggestions and recommendations. She wrapped up the issues discussed at the Meeting, and emphasized that the issues being brought up will facilitate and accommodate student exchanges in the region and beyond.

31. The 8th Review Meeting was held in the traditional spirit of SEAMEO friendship and solidarity.
