



กระทรวงการอุดมศึกษา วิทยาศาสตร์ วิจัยและนวัตกรรม
Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation

Attachment 1

Bangkok Joint Statement of the AIMS Student Ambassadors on Redefining Mobility in the Disruptive Era

I. INTRODUCTION

1. We, the Student Ambassadors of the Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme Member Countries, namely Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Malaysia, the Republic of the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam gathered on 12-13 November 2019 in Bangkok, Thailand on the occasion of the 10th Anniversary and 13th Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme.
2. We congratulated the Member Country governments, participating AIMS Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), AIMS students and alumni as well as SEAMEO RIHED on the auspicious occasion of the 10th Anniversary of the AIMS Programme and for the success of the Programme in enhancing regional student mobility and contributing to the harmonization of higher education. We also praised the efforts and commitments of AIMS stakeholders in making this Programme possible since its endorsement by SEAMEO Member Countries in 2008 and official launch in 2010.
3. We acknowledged the AIMS objectives to create a vibrant programme for all citizens of SEAMEO Member Countries and beyond and to promote student mobility and cross-border academic collaboration in order to nurture global citizens and contribute to achieving the sustainable development of the region.
4. We recognised the responsibility and potential of youth in promoting a caring and sharing community in Southeast Asia and beyond. Hence, we commit to a pro-active role in harnessing connectivity and promoting environmental protection through equity, diversity and inclusion and with the provision of resources and facilities to support mobility in accordance with the SEAMEO Priority Areas, ASEAN Community Goals and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
5. With these statements, we, as future leaders, hereby declare the following recommendations with regard to mobility in the disruptive era to be achieved through the collective actions of the governments and HEIs of the AIMS Member Countries.

II. KEY DELIVERABLES

6. We emphasize the significance of student mobility in developing learners' competencies and enhancing institutional quality which provides a foundation for an innovative, resilient and sustainable regional community that leaves no one behind in the rapidly changing global context.

III. CHALLENGES

7. We express concern regarding the accessibility and quality of student mobility in four aspects:
 - a. Digital Literacy and Proper Technology Utilization: We note that universities and staff have not fully utilized digital technology to support teaching and learning and promote virtual exchange student and alumni networks. We also



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emphasized the importance of digital literacy, particularly for faculty, staff and students.

- b. Disparity in Accessing and Implementing Student Mobility: We recognise the importance of affirmative action and inclusiveness to support exchange students and ensure their equal treatment regardless of gender, nationality, or academic performance.
- c. Inadequacy of Supporting Systems for Exchange Students: We reaffirm the importance of pre-departure preparations as well as the need for supporting mechanisms for exchange students to interact with other international and local students at host universities through research and social activities.
- d. Impacts of Mobility on Student Competencies and Social Responsibility Development: We recognize that student mobility helps to cultivate student competencies and social responsibility, including environmental awareness and cultural sensitivity. However, we are concerned that strict rules and regulations as well as a lack of funds to support mobility can hinder this impact.

IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

8. To maximize the impact of student mobility, we would like to provide the following recommendations:
 - a. We urge governments to:
 - i. Promote universal design and supportive services for marginalized and underprivileged students.
 - ii. Provide more funding to support student mobility so that the number of exchange students can increase and their well-being can be ensured.
 - iii. Provide physical and virtual platforms for students and alumni to share information and mentoring.
 - iv. Deregulate the rules and regulations to provide opportunities for exchange students to seek employment and entrepreneurial opportunities in the host country.
 - v. Support the expansion of universities and member countries participating in student exchange programmes.
 - vi. Collaborate with other stakeholders to address environmental issues.
 - vii. Establish a platform for students to share and exchange ideas on environmental issues in order to raise environmental awareness.
 - viii. Promote environmental education and provide incentives for people at all ages, particularly students and youth to become engaged.
 - ix. Ensure access to information for students, including accommodation options, student services, insurance, and visa processes.
 - b. We encourage universities to:
 - i. Provide training for faculty and staff in the area of digital technology and proper technology utilization.
 - ii. Provide pre-departure orientation for outbound students, focusing on cultural sensitivity and tolerance.
 - iii. Improve buddy systems to ensure that students are properly guided throughout the exchange period.
 - iv. Provide a platform for students to contribute to local community by utilizing research, transferring knowledge and engaging in social activities.
 - v. Promote the equal treatment of students regardless of gender, nationality, or academic performance.



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- c. We advocate AIMS alumni and students to:
 - i. Share lessons learned from participation in the AIMS Programme with other exchange and local students.
 - ii. Conduct social responsibility programmes focusing on the SDGs.
 - d. We strongly suggest SEAMEO RIHED to:
 - i. Serve as Secretariat of the AIMS Programme to connect policy makers with HEIs, students and alumni.
 - ii. Evaluate the impact and implementation of the AIMS programme. The evaluation process should be conducted anonymously.
 - iii. Collaborate closely with NGOs and the private sector to provide more opportunities to students.
 - iv. Organise an annual AIMS International Student Fair.
 - v. Ensure inclusiveness when organizing AIMS activities.
9. We express appreciation to the Government of Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED for their warm hospitality in hosting the AIMS Student Forum. It allowed us, the Student Ambassadors of the AIMS Programme, to provide our ideas and play a role in promoting a caring and sharing regional community. We look forward to having a similar opportunity in the future.
10. The realisation of this Joint Statement will be accomplished through the enhancement of cooperation among SEAMEO Member Countries. This Joint Statement will be submitted to the SEAMEO High Official Meeting (HOM) and SEAMEO Council Conference through SEAMEO RIHED.

Adopted in Bangkok on 13 November 2019.

Acknowledged by the participants of the 10th Anniversary and 13th Annual Review Meeting of the AIMS Programme.