SEAMEO RIHED:
Credit Transfer and Quality Assurance

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At the Peer Learning Activity on Qualification Frameworks in relation to Quality Assurance and Recognition and Expert Group Meeting on Credit Transfer Mechanism and Learning Outcomes
26 April, 2017, Ghent, Belgium
Overview on Higher Education in Southeast Asia

About SEAMEO RIHED

Harmonisation in Higher Education – Credit transfer and Quality Assurance
Overview on Higher Education in Southeast Asia
ASEAN: ONE DIVERSE COMMUNITY
Diversity of SEA: Population
Statistical in 2016

- The current population of Southeast Asia is 642,929,859 as of Saturday, October 29, 2016, based on the latest United Nations estimates.
- Southeast Asia population is equivalent to 8.62% of the total world population.
- Southeast Asia ranks number 3 in Asia among subregions ranked by Population.
- The population density in Southeast Asia is 148 per Km² (382 people per mi²).
- The median age in Southeast Asia is 29.1 years old.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Population size (2016)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>0.428 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>15.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>260.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laos</td>
<td>6.9 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>30.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>54.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>102.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>5.7 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>68.1 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>1.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>94.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

http://www.worldometers.info/world-population/south-eastern-asia-population/
Diversity of SEA: Higher Education

**No. of HEIs**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No of HEIs</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brunei Darussalam</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>by 2015</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>4,499</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lao PDR</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>by 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>2,299</td>
<td>by 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>173</td>
<td>by 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>by 2012</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>234</td>
<td>by 2016</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Diversity of SEA: Number of Students

Total: 17 Million++

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>No. Students (approx)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>7.1 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>4 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>2.4 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>2 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>1.1 Million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td>210,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Timor-Leste</td>
<td>27,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>97,665</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Myanmar</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brunei</td>
<td>N/A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

ABOUT SEAMEO RIHED
SEAMEO

Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization

Regional intergovernmental organization established in 1965 among governments of Southeast Asian countries to promote regional cooperation in education, science and culture in the region.

SEAMEO has 21 specialist institutions (20 Centres + 1 Network).
SEAMEO RIHED

The SEAMEO regional centre for higher education and development

Originally founded as the Regional Institute of Higher Education and Development in Singapore in 1959. RIHED was reorganised and established in Thailand in 1993, as a regional centre of SEAMEO.
The SEAMEO

7 Priority Areas (2015-2035)

1. Ensuring Childhood Care & Education
2. Addressing Barriers to Inclusion
3. Ensuring Resiliency in the Face of Emergencies
4. Promoting Technical and Vocational Education & Training
5. Revitalising Teacher Education
6. Promoting Harmonisation in Higher Education & Research
7. Adopting a 21st Century Curriculum
SEAMEO RIHED’s Scope of Work: The “BIG PICTURE”

Facilitating policy dialogues + Developing harmonization mechanisms + Promoting multilateral collaboration in the region and beyond

**Governing Board MEETINGS**

- 5 Years Development Plan (2012-2017)
  - Programs serving 5 objectives:
    1. Empowering Higher Education Institutions
    2. Developing Harmonization Mechanisms
    3. Cultivating Globalized Human Resources
    4. Advancing Knowledge Frontiers in Higher Education System Management
    5. Promoting University Social Responsibility And Sustainable Development

**SEA-HiEd SOM MEETINGS**

- Promoting Harmonization of HE in SEA Region through 4 priority areas:
  1. Academic Mobility
  2. Leadership Development
  3. E-Learning and Mobile Learning
  4. ASEAN Citation Index (ACI)

**Regional Seminars**

- SEA-HiEd Leaders Forum Series (back-to-back with SEA-HiEd SOM)
- SEAMEO RIHED Regional Seminars (back-to-back to GBM)
Harmonisation in Higher Education
Credit transfer and Quality Assurance
Harmonization + Creating Common Space
In Higher Education in Southeast Asian Region

SEAMEO RIHED initiated discussions and set out our working direction & goals towards the two aforementioned concepts since 2007.
University Networks Development

Since 2010
AIMS
ASEAN International Mobility for Students Programme

Since 2014
ACNET-EngTech
ASEAN-China Network for Cooperation and Exchanges Among Engineering and Technology Universities

Since 2015
GMS-UC
Greater Mekong Sub-region University Consortium

Since 2017
ACACA
ASEAN-China Arts Colleges Alliance

68 Universities
17 Universities
24 Universities
19 Universities

Flags of participating countries:
AIMS Programme
ASEAN International Mobility for Students

- Initiated in 2008 as a Pilot Project under RIHED’s Framework for Regional Integration in Higher Education in Southeast Asia (endorsed by the SEAMEO Council at the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference), launched in 2010 as a M-I-T Student Mobility Project, renamed in 2012 as ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme

- Helps to promote student mobility among Southeast Asian Nations and beyond

- Harmonise higher education systems within the SEA region and inter-region.

AIMS Overview
A regional platform for HEIs to harmonize higher education
People-to-people and cross-cultural connectivity
Globalized human resources

8 Countries
10 Study Fields
68 Universities
>2300 Students
What make AIMS different?

- **Self-sufficiency & Sustainability**
  - Regional mobility
  - Member Country supports participation
  - Based on the academic readiness

- **Balanced Mobility**
  - Mutual agreement on the number of exchange students

- **Supporting Mechanisms**
  - AIMS Steering Committee Meeting
  - AIMS Review Meeting
10 study fields:
Agriculture
Biodiversity
Economics
Engineering
Environmental Management and Science
Food Science and Technology
Hospitality and Tourism
International Business
Language and Culture
Marine Science

SEAMEO RIHED takes student mobility as the starting point for further academic mobility in the region branching out to faculty, researcher and staff mobility in the future.
Quality Assurance

University Networks Development

IQA
Internal Quality Assurance
- Quality Assurance
  - At Institutional Level

EQA
External Quality Assurance
- QA Agencies (QA authorities and ministries responsible for HE)

NQF
National Qualifications Framework
- Benefits national IQA and EQA consistency and equivalence

AQAF
ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework
- Benefits all EQA bodies & institutions across SEA countries

Collaboration with other leading HEIs to improve quality
Quality Assurance

ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN)

- AQAN initiated in 2008 by SEAMEO RIHED and MQA
- Comprise national QA agencies to strengthen regional QA
- SEAMEO RIHED on Technical Team for ASEAN Quality Assurance Framework (AQAF)
- In 2016, AQAN became entity associated with ASEAN
- SEAMEO RIHED - Honorary member of AQAN
Credit Transfer under the AIMS Programme

- Resulting from trust in QA, credit transfer arrangements under AIMS are discussed in mutual agreement among member HEIs within each consortium/study field.

- AIMS facilitates a platform where key stakeholders in the CT process can come together to compare courses and curriculums, to discuss common solutions, and to explore possibilities for further harmonising CT arrangements and practices between institutions.
Towards ensuring harmonisation in the region: Lessons Learned

- **Flexibility** is the key to ensuring we can accommodate and support the diversity of practices and systems in the region.

- **Bridging gaps** across the region towards strengthened readiness for regional and international cooperation (Capacity Building, Leadership Development).
Credit Transfer

Due to the rigid formula of CT at both regional and international levels, a framework is needed that can accommodate this multiplicity, recognizing the diversity of applications in higher education institutions (HEIs) across the region.
SEAMEO RIHED and the ADB have **common aims**

1) To improve cooperation and networking of HEIs
2) To foster HE harmonisation within the GMS countries and beyond

SEAMEO RIHED’s implementation on the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS) Human Resource Development Strategic Framework and Action Plan (Phase 2) with the support from the ADB

Under 7 Strategic Thrusts of the GMS HRD Strategy
(iii) Cooperating in higher education and research

ACTFA

GMS-UC
The GMS University Consortium (GMS-UC)

Aims to help strengthen and accelerate cross-border collaboration among universities in the GMS countries as well as to develop regional platform for HEIs and lead to harmonization of higher education in Southeast Asia.

SEAMEO RIHED facilitated the establishment of the GMS-UC with 24 universities nominated by their respective governments.

Key areas of collaboration include:

- Faculty exchange
- University governance and social responsibility
- **Credit transfer**
- Information sharing
- Talent cultivation,
- QA and
- Research collaboration.
Kick off Meeting of the GMS-UC and ACTFA Projects and Signing Ceremony of GMS-UC for Collaboration and Excellence, 8 – 9 July 2015, Vientiane, Lao PDR
ACTFA Implementation Plan

1. EXPLORE
   Action Research: Building a Common Credit Transfer System for the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) and Beyond

2. EXPERIMENT
   Academic Credit Transfer Framework for Asia (ACTFA) piloted among nominated universities in GMS countries

3. EXPERIENCE
   Analysis and comparison between existing national credit transfer practices and ACTFA to determine compatibility

4. EXPAND
   ACTFA endorsed at regional level and adopted at national levels with possibilities to expand to Asia

- 2015: Kick-Off Meeting of ACTFA and GMS-UC Projects, in Vientiane, Lao PDR
- 2016: ACTFA Technical Workshops to support ACTFA implementation conducted in 5 GMS countries
Kick-off Meeting of the ACTFA Projects organized on 9 July 2015 at Vientiane, Lao PDR

ACTFA Technical Workshops in the GMS Countries on how to implement ACTFA in 2016

Taking stocks on current practices and produce outcomes to experiment

Analysis/Comparison the national CTS and ACTFA

Feedback and recommendations from universities will be developed.
Recent and Future Developments

ACTFA & GMS-UC

- Capacity Building Workshops
- ACTFA Handbook Development and Dissemination
- Continuation of ACTFA Implementation Plan Phase 3 and Phase 4
Forwarding Higher Education Cooperation of the Greater Mekong Subregion

Impacts, which will lead to:

1) Strengthening manpower for national development
2) Bridging the gap of both socio-economic performance between GMS and other ASEAN members
3) Unifying efforts to achieve vision and mission of ASEAN Community

Map credit: https://mekongforum2011.wordpress.com
Thank You Very Much

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