

SUMMARY RECORD

The 1st ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus Three Countries

30 September 2013, Tokyo, Japan

INTRODUCTION

1. The First Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education was convened on 30 September 2013 in Tokyo, Japan.
2. The Meeting was attended by delegates from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Representatives of the ASEAN University Network, Southeast Asian Ministers on Education Organisation (SEAMEO), ASEAN Quality Assurance Network (AQAN) and staff members of the ASEAN Secretariat were also in attendance. The list of delegates appears as **ANNEX 1**.

OPENING FORMALITIES

3. H.E. Hiroyuki Yoshiie, Vice Minister of Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan, officially delivered an opening remark
4. The Meeting agreed to appoint Malaysia as Chair and Japan as Co-Chair during the First Working Group Meeting

MEETING DISCUSSION

5. The Meeting shared information on the ongoing initiatives related to mobility of higher education, and emphasized the need to develop a systematic and holistic approach to promote mobility in higher education and strengthen cooperation in quality assurance of higher education.

6. The Meeting further exchanged ideas to strengthen and facilitate policy dialogues, coordination, collaboration and promotion of mobility and quality assurance of higher education amongst ASEAN Plus Three countries.

7. The Meeting discussed the future directions of the Working Group, including (1) to develop “ASEAN Plus Three guidelines for promotion of student exchange with quality assurance” (hereafter “student exchange guidelines”) by 2017 and (2) to facilitate a setting in 2014 where quality assurance agencies and as needed, government officials from ASEAN Plus Three countries will meet on a regular basis. The Future Direction appears as **ANNEX 2**.

8. Regarding the first direction, the Meeting exchanged views on the following issues:

- The guidelines should be drafted in consideration of the development and diversity of the higher education systems in ASEAN Plus Three countries.
- The content of the guidelines needs to be further discussed among the member countries with reference to the existing related guidelines.
- Each member country needs to be given flexibility in terms of timing to implement the guidelines depending on the national context.
- The schedule for the development of student exchange guidelines needs to be confirmed shortly as it is expected to be presented at the ASEAN Plus Three Education Ministers Meeting for the realization and implementation.

9. As for the second direction of the proposal, the Meeting agreed that AQAN will initiate to set up an “ASEAN Plus Three Quality Assurance Expert Meeting (tentative)”. The Meeting noted the suggestion of AQAN that the future direction will be discussed at the AQAN Meeting in October 2013.

10. Regarding the Fund for the Working Group Meeting, the Meeting noted that the ASEAN Secretariat will examine the possibility of applying for ASEAN Plus Three Cooperation fund or ASEAN Plus One fund for the Working Group’s initiatives.

11. The Meeting agreed that the result of the discussion of the Working Group will be summarized in an annual report, which will be submitted to the next annual SOM-ED Plus Three Meeting.

12. The Meeting welcomed the offer by Indonesia to be the host of the 2nd ASEAN Plus Three Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education in 2014.

13. Indonesia accepted the Chair's proposal that Indonesia will serve as Chair in the 2nd Working Group and this proposal is expected to be approved at the next annual SOM-ED Plus Three Meeting. The Meeting acknowledged and appreciated Malaysia as Chair, the ASEAN Secretariat and the Government of Japan, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT) for excellent arrangement.

CLOSING REMARKS

14. The Meeting ended with a closing remarks presented by the Chair, thanking the participants for their active contributions and the fruitful discussions.

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