



SEAMEO RIHED Project
The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating
Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia

Supported by
The Japan Foundation

LETTER OF AGREEMENT

This LETTER OF AGREEMENT is made between SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED) and Country Coordinator of Indonesia.

Background

Education, especially higher education, has always been the backbone of economic and social development. As a result of globalisation, promoting international competitiveness is no longer the issue of any individual or national effort but a concerted one. Also, another important challenge for the 'knowledge-based society' is that 'knowledge' and 'education' has become the fortifying source of economic and social development. Higher education, in particular, has become the main engine in producing the right mix of skilled labours to supply, not only the internal but also regional and global market.

Given this current trend of the tighter link between higher education and employability, other regions such as Europe and Central America have put a lot of efforts to develop a structured regional framework in higher education through the establishment of a 'common space' and 'higher education area' to facilitate better and smoother academic activities and cooperation between institutions as well as trainings and employment with business and industrial sector. The harmonisation of higher education systems which indicates the adoption of common general guidelines for higher education development and practices, such as in the areas of quality assurance, comparable and readable degree, qualification framework or credit transfer system will certainly be the most common platform for higher education cooperation for many regions in the years to come.

Signatures Supadma Jayawalle (SEAMEO RIHED)

[Signature] (Country Coordinator)



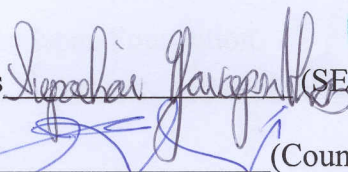
In Southeast Asia, the lack of understanding and awareness about the process of harmonisation in higher education around the world is the main impediment for long-term strategic planning in both governmental and HEI sector. Given the changing global higher education landscape, in which a common space in higher education has been utilised to promote economic growth, international competitiveness and sustainable social development, there is an urgent need for this region to start discussing the same development and possibility.

Since mid-2007, SEAMEO RIHED has started to be the key promoter to the raise the awareness among policy decision makers and academic on the importance of the process of regional harmonisation in higher education. 'The proposal on the structured framework for regional integration in higher education in SEA: the Road towards a Common Space' was submitted to the 30th High Officials Meeting, the 2nd Director General/Secretary General and Commissioner responsible for Higher Education Meeting and the SEAMEO Council of Ministers Meeting, respectively. It was envisioned in the proposal the idea to use the common space in higher education as one of the important mechanisms to promote ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community and the realisation of ASEAN Community by 2015. In the 2nd Director General/Secretary General and Commissioner responsible for Higher Education Meeting in November 2007, the Meeting echoed the importance of such initiative and agreed that the cooperation to create a general guideline and framework in the areas of ASEAN Quality Framework and Curriculum Development, Student Mobility, Leadership, E-learning and Mobile learning as well as ASEAN Research Clusters, should be encouraged. The proposal was finally endorsed by the Ministers of Education during the SEAMEO Council Meeting in March 2008.

Purpose

With the aim to push forward the idea of regional harmonisation in higher education among government officials, academic and key stakeholders, the first phase involves activities that raise the awareness among the key actors on the significance and the essence of the regional harmonisation process in higher education. **The Conference Series on Raising Awareness: Exploring the Ideas of Creating Higher Education Common Space in Southeast Asia** is therefore initiated by SEAMEO RIHED and strongly supported by the Japan Foundation. This project is considered the first step of the long road towards the realisation of the common space in higher education in 2015.

Signatures


 (SEAMEO RIHED)
 (Country Coordinator)



SEAMEO RIHED and the Japan Foundation will entrust the Country Coordinator, Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan, who is professional in the field of higher education research to organise a workshop to distribute ideas about the harmonisation process in higher education and also to gather basic information and viewpoints from the key participants in the Workshop. Based on the information gathered from the Workshop and the Country Coordinator's own analysis, Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan is requested to write a Country Report and to present the analysis in the International Conference on Raising Awareness in Bangkok.

Project Operational Plan

Please refer to the Term of Reference (TOR).

SEAMEO RIHED agrees to:

1. Remit \$US750 for Country Coordinator to organise the Pre-Conference Workshop in Indonesia ((inclusive of the communication, the invitation of the attendees and venue expenses etc.).
2. Remit the honorarium of \$US250 for Country Coordinator for their participation and presentation in the International Conference in Bangkok.
3. Remit the honorarium of \$US1,000 for Country Coordinator, which will be provided after submitting the final Country Report to SEAMEO RIHED.
4. Provide VDO CD presentation on the process of regional harmonisation in higher education and a survey questionnaire in English for the Pre-Conference Workshop (Copyrights of the VDO CD presentation and the survey questionnaire belong to SEAMEO RIHED.)
5. Organise the International Conference in Bangkok.
6. Provide a return economy airfares from and to Bangkok and the Country Coordinator's capital city for the project discussion and the International Conference.
7. Provide accommodation for Country Coordinator during the project discussion and the International Conference.
8. Publish the Conference Proceeding (Copyrights of the Country Report belong to both SEAMEO RIHED and Country Coordinator. Any further usage of the Country Report will be placed as a footnote on the first page of the published article and be referred to the other party.)
9. Submit the final evaluation to the Japan Foundation.

Signatures _____ (SEAMEO RIHED)

(Country Coordinator)



Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC Ad Interim Deputy Director, agrees to act as one of the Country Coordinators, and to carry the following activities:

1. Attend the project discussion in Bangkok on **27 June 2008**.
2. Organise the Pre-Conference Workshop in the Country Coordinator's country (**July-August 2008**). The Pre-Conference Workshop is to include 20-30 participants from:
 - a) academics/higher education institutions;
 - b) government officials responsible for higher education policy and strategic planning;
 - c) other key stakeholders: e.g. employer association
3. Write the Country Report (12-15 pages, single space) based on the data gathered from the Pre-Conference Workshop and Country Coordinator's own analysis.
4. Provide SEAMEO RIHED with the electronic version of the final Country Report by **27 September 2008**.
5. Return copies of filled-out questionnaire to SEAMEO RIHED by November 2008.
6. Present his/her own Country Report in the International Conference in Bangkok in early **November 2008**.

Duration of Agreement

This agreement is made and entered into on 1 May 2008 and shall continue until 31 December 2008.

Signatures

These responsibilities are agreed to by the following authorised signatories.

For SEAMEO RIHED

For Country Coordinator



Supachai Yayaprabhas
 Prof. Dr. Supachai Yayaprabhas
 Director

Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan
 Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan
 Ad Interim Deputy Director
 SEAMEO SEAMOLEC

Date 1 May 2008

Date 1 May 2008

Signatures *Supachai Yayaprabhas* (SEAMEO RIHED)
Dr. Jaslin Ikhsan (Country Coordinator)

