

*Draft – August 23, 2000*

**Report of the Third Working Group Meeting of the ASEAN  
Virtual University of Science and Technology (VUST)  
Bali, 22 August 2000**

**1. Introduction**

The Working Group Meeting was initially opened and chaired by Dr. Y. Aoshima from UNESCO and attended by 16 participants from Hong Kong, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Japan, Thailand, the ASEAN Secretariat and the UNESCO. The List of Participants is attached as Annex 1.

**2. Election of the Chairperson**

The Meeting elected Dr. Trihono Sastrohartono from Indonesia as the Chairman of the Meeting and adopted the Proposed Agenda with some modifications.

**3. Minutes of the Second Working Group Meeting**

The Meeting discussed the Minutes of the Second Meeting of the ASEAN Virtual Science University (AVSU) which was held on 21 January 2000 in Bangkok. The Meeting agreed on the Minutes with some changes and modification and the complete corrected version will be distributed by e-mail.

**4. Remarks from UNESCO**

Dr. Y. Oashima from the UNESCO in his remarks explained about the UNESCO activities in Asia. He said that since the withdrawal of Singapore from UNESCO in 1996, the country is absent from the UNESCO activities. It is hoped that Singapore will join the ASEAN-UNESCO projects and will take benefit from the program. The National University of Singapore (NUS) is of the view that Singapore should join the UNESCO to take more benefit from the project. The MFA and the Singaporean Institute of Engineers will put political pressure to the Singaporean Government to come back to the UNESCO. It is suggested that before Singapore join the UNESCO, the academic institutions or NGO from Singapore could participate in the ASEAN-UNESCO projects and Working Group Meetings. He proposed to invite some experts on digital library to discuss and share experience on digital libraries particularly for Engineering Group with the possibility for Science Group.

**5. Remarks from the ASEAN Secretariat**

Dr. Linda Posadas from the ASEAN Secretariat in her remarks explained the Project Development Process of the ASEAN Virtual University of Science and Technology. She

showed the indicative dates and milestones of the ASEAN Foundation Project Cycle Calendar, including the parallel activities of the ASEAN, the UNESCO and the Working Group. Touching upon the criteria for the Project Approval, she pointed out 9 (nine) criteria of the AF projects that could be approved. They are: consistency with AF priorities; regionality, minimum number of beneficiary member countries; sustainability, availability of co-financing and counterpart contributions; achievability of objectives within specified time frame; cost-effectiveness, non-duplicative, and preferably for small-scale projects with direct benefits at the grassroots level. She also explained that there is a cooperation agreement between the ASEAN Secretariat and the UNESCO.

#### **6. Discussion on the Minutes of the ASEAN Virtual Science University (AVSU)**

The Meeting discussed the Minutes and noted that it has not been properly finished. The Meeting agreed on the proposal put forward by Dr. Abdul Aziz Tajuddin to revise the Minutes. Dr. Aziz promised the Meeting to distribute the revised version by e-mail to the all parties.

#### **7. Discussion on the documents prepared by the E-mail Forums on Task Force 3 (Science)**

During the discussion on the documents prepared by the E-mail Forums on Task Force 3 (with regard to Science Group), Dr. Abdul Aziz Tajuddin from the USM Malaysia presented his paper titled *Suggestion for Pilot Program: Continuing Education Courses for Science Teachers*. In his presentation he explained that the initial target for the Science Group is to offer continuing education courses for professional enhancement of science teachers. He also identified the subjects/courses to be offered as pilot program. The courses are intended for continuing education course for professional enhancement; education for working adults and science teachers. The science e-mail forum dwells on the duration of the courses; the number of credits/units to be taken; the nature of the courses and the level of the course to be offered. With regard to the delivery system to be used, he explained that the internet is the first choice in delivering instruction, meaning that "on-line" course should be made available and hence the development of various interactive training materials which will be sustainable for on-line delivery. To begin the project, he proposed to establish a regional virtual science teaching resources center that could provide teaching tools/services such as digital library, virtual experts, mentorship, networked classrooms, and networks. The Center should be linked with other existing facilities that have already developed the courseware. It is also suggested that these courses could be rewarded with a kind of recognition such as a degree.

#### **8. Discussion on the documents prepared by the E-mail Forums on Task Force 3 (Engineering)**

Dr. Aura C. Matias, the Secretary General of AEESEAP, in her presentation representing the Engineering Group explained that the Engineering Group is focusing on the enhancement of the engineering education. She pointed out the general consensus made by the Group to pilot the offering of on-line programs to Continuing Engineering



Education courses. The consensus was based on the fact that academic programs would be difficult to pilot at this stage due to the problems relating to accreditation, differences in academic systems, regulatory aspects, varying mediums of instruction, and varying sophistication of delivery infrastructure. Regarding the topics to be chosen, she suggested those with regional importance and commonalties such as environmental engineering, construction technology and management, engineering best practices (such as quality management) and energy management. With regard to the delivery system to be used, she explained that the initial pilots runs will be hosted by designated institutions that will also responsible for development of course modules, monitoring and evaluation of students progress, matriculation and feedback. Since not all people could access to the internet, the delivery will not only be done through internet but also through CD ROM virtual format (computer-medium) with continuously developed materials. The other possible way is to use an appropriate software platform such as the open Integrated Virtual Learning Environment (IVLE) and commercial software such as WebCT. She identified the possible funding problem that could be occurred in running the project. Therefore, she emphasized the importance of the commitment for the development of these pilot modules.

## **9. General Discussion**

The Meeting also discussed the possible ways to provide certification and recognition of the course with the aim of enhancing the people involvement. But it is realized that there will be problems relating to the appointment of the entity that will responsible for the certification and evaluation of the program. The Meeting identified the needs or demand of the society which are different from country to country. In Malaysia, for instance, the need for College and for University is different. Therefore the Meeting agreed the subject/topic but viewed that it was still need time to discuss the level of education needed by the teachers. With respect to the professional enhancement, the Meeting is of the view that the individual efforts made by teachers of science in pursuing to higher education should be appreciated/rewarded. The other important thing to do is to find/identify our respective uniqueness of demands before deciding to provide education to the teachers. It is suggested that the government should support the efforts to improve the quality of teachers and teaching materials. The government should also promote through their policy the efficient service in smart partnership with the education sector. The Meeting is of the view that Information Technology (IT) could be taken as alternative of teaching methodology by involving teachers and integrating other science, such as environment technology, into the system. The Meeting bear in mind that teaching methodology should be upgraded and the teaching materials should be made more interesting and more relevant to the needs of the respective countries, and the quality of the teachers should also be improved. It suggested that the topic for Science Group should be emphasized on the science teachers needs, while the topic for Engineering Group should be emphasized on the professional practitioners. It is also suggested that the topic of the Science Group will dwell on the IT competency and science teaching development.

## **10. Steps to be taken**

The Meeting agreed on the actions to be taken for Science Programs covers as follows:

- a. Needs Analysis that will be carried out by all parties and coordinated by Prof. Abdul Aziz Tajuddin from University Sains Malaysia. The analysis covers
  - High School or University teachers;
  - Levels of course to be offered;
  - Subject priority/special topics.
- b. IT Competency that will be coordinated by Dr. Kanchana Kanchanasut from Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok.
- c. Identification of available courseware that will be carried out by all parties and coordinated by Prof. Abdul Aziz Tajuddin from USM.
  - Designing/developing two pilot courses involving experts from member countries.

The Meeting also agreed to the actions to be taken for Engineering programs covers:

- a. Needs Analysis that will be carried out by all parties and coordinated by Dr. Aura Matias from AEESEAP. The analysis covers
  - Professional engineers
  - Subject priority/special topics
- b. IT Competency course that will be coordinated by Dr. Kanchana Kanchanasut from Thailand.
- c. Identification of available courseware that will be carried out by all parties and coordinated by Dr. Aura Matias from AEESEAP.
- d. Designing/developing two pilot courses to address the needs of:
  - Environment and Energy Management that will be carried out all parties and coordinated by Dr. Kanchana Kanchanasut.
  - Construction Technology and Management that will be coordinated by Dr. Kanchana.
  - Engineering best practices that will be coordinated by Dr. Edgardo Atanacio from College of Engineering of the University of Philippines.
- e. Survey of available platform for IT based courses that will be coordinated by Dr. Kanchana Kanchanasut.

Regarding the criteria of the courses, the Meeting agreed to start conducting the course first without arguing on the diploma or degree to be given to the graduates. It was based on the assumption that the first objective is to improve the quality of science and technology education in the region in order to catch up with the raising demand of the development and globalization.

## **11. Establishment of Task Forces**

In order to accomplish the programs, the Meeting decided to establish two task forces and to appoint two moderators for respective task forces. Dr. Rom Tamjis was appointed to moderate Task Force 1 that covers legal matters, membership, and funding. Task force 1 consists of Dr. Edgardo Atanacio, Dr. Viboon Saengveerapunsiri, Dr. A.

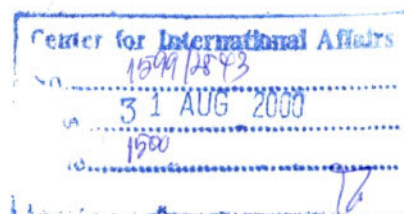
Handojo, Prof. Abdul Aziz Tajuddin). The moderator for Task Force 2 will be a nominee from Chulalongkorn University and covers digital library and virtual teaching resources center (VTRC). The Task Force 2 consists of Dr. Aura Matias, Dr. Viboon Saengveerapunsiri, Dr. Rom Tamjis, and a nominee by AIT).

## **12. Other Matters**

The Meeting decided to go with the big proposal, therefore the two Task Forces should be activated. It was also emphasized that the proposal for the ASEAN Foundation is just a pilot projects (small projects) and the next projects should be self-financed.

The next meeting will be held in Langkawi, Malaysia in 2001.





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Dear friends,

I am sorry for being late in sending the digital file of the ASEAN VUST  
Third WG Meeting report, since I have been sick since came back from Bali.  
Anyway, I am attaching the draft report for your kind perusal.

Dr. Aura,

By sending this E-mail, do I miss any participants of the last meeting,  
especially from the Science Group?

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*Handwritten signature and date: 31/8/00*