

ASEAN University Network  
Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network  
(AUN/SEED-Net)

The Signing Ceremony on the Cooperative Framework of the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) was jointly organized by the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Secretariat and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) in cooperation with the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand and was attended by the representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, representatives of the AUN/SEED-Net Member Institutions as well as invited observers.

The Cooperative Framework of the AUN/SEED-Net is referred to in the attachment hereto, which is a document to be used by all concerned bodies after having been endorsed by stakeholders.

December 16, 2022  
Bangkok, Thailand

**For ASEAN University Network**

**For Japan International Cooperation Agency**

*S. Songsivilai*

Prof. Sirirug Songsivilai, M.D., Ph.D.  
Chairman of Board of Trustees

*Sachiko Imoto*

Ms. Sachiko Imoto  
Senior Vice President



### **<AUN/SEED-Net Member Institutions>**

Official endorsement of the framework is confirmed by the letter from each university.

#### **Brunei Darussalam**

- Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB)
- Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

#### **Kingdom of Cambodia**

- Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)

#### **Republic of Indonesia**

- Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)
- Universitas Indonesia (UI)
- Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)

#### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

- National University of Laos (NUOL)

#### **Malaysia**

- Universiti Malaya (UM)
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

#### **Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

- University of Yangon (UY)
- Yangon Technological University (YTU)

#### **Republic of the Philippines**

- De La Salle University (DLSU)
- University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP)
- Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)

#### **Republic of Singapore**

- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- National University of Singapore (NUS)



**Kingdom of Thailand**

- Burapha University (BUU)
- Chulalongkorn University (CU)
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL)
- Kasetsart University (KU)
- Thammasat University (TU)

**Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

- Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT)
- Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)

**Witness****For ASEAN Secretariat**

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Ms. Rodora Turalde-Babaran  
Director of Human Development  
ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Department



Attachment

ASEAN University Network

Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network

(AUN/SEED-Net)

Cooperative Framework





## Preface

The ASEAN University Network (AUN) was founded in 1995 based on the initiative of the Fourth Meeting of the ASEAN Heads of Governments, held in 1992. This initiative highlighted the need to promote human resource development by considering ways to strengthen the existing network of leading universities in the ASEAN region, with a view to ultimately establish an ASEAN University based on the expanded network.

The concept behind SEED-Net evolved at the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting held in December 1997, where the Government of Japan emphasized the importance of human resource development for sustainable economic development in the ASEAN region. Possible projects have been discussed since then among the relevant authorities of the ASEAN Member States (AMS) and Japan.

The central issue was how to upgrade higher education in the engineering field by creating engineering institution networks throughout ASEAN. As a result of a series of discussions and preparations, the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) was established in 2001 as a sub-network of AUN. The inauguration ceremony was held at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok with great support from the AUN Secretariat.

After two years of preparation, the JICA Technical Cooperation Project started its large-scale operation in March 2003, with the first Phase, followed by three more phases, lasting 5 years each. Over the last twenty-two years, AUN/SEED-Net has supported young academic staff of Member Institutions (MIs), helping them to obtain higher degrees (master's and/or doctoral degrees) by providing them with opportunities to study at leading MIs in the region or at supporting universities in Japan. As a result, nearly 1,400 academic staff have had opportunities to pursue higher education, and most of them have returned to teach students at universities in their respective countries.

At the same time, the project has strengthened the research capacity of academic staff in ASEAN Member Institutions by supporting collaborative research among young academic staff and supervisors at universities in ASEAN, and academic staff from Japanese Supporting Universities (JSUs). Additionally, leveraging the networks developed among researchers through scholarship programs, researchers in MIs collaborated with Japanese researchers to carry out more than 200 collaborative research projects. AUN/SEED-Net has also organized academic regional conferences in ten fields, each of which takes place annually. AUN/SEED-Net periodically

published the *ASEAN Engineering Journal (AEJ)*, an international academic journal, providing ASEAN researchers with opportunities to contribute research papers and reinforce their connections with other academics in the region. In Phase 4, Collaborative Education Programs (CEP) were implemented by consortiums composed of ASEAN universities, Japanese universities, and Japanese companies in order to strengthen the links between universities and industry. Through these activities, AUN/SEED-Net has succeeded in developing and strengthening its academic network among other engineering networks in the region.

Based on these remarkable achievements, the AMS, MIs, Japanese Universities, JICA and AUN are determined to continue AUN/SEED-Net. During the cooperation for the next three years of cooperation, AUN/SEED-Net will be transferred to AUN to build a structure that will continue to be the connecting hub between ASEAN and Japanese universities.

### **1. Organization of AUN/SEED-Net**

AUN/SEED-Net is a sub-network of the AUN with membership coming from leading engineering institutions in the AMS and leading Japanese universities, established in partnership with JICA. AUN/SEED-Net will be hosted by and supported by the AUN Secretariat.

### **2. Objectives**

With the aim of ensuring the sustainable development of societies in ASEAN and Japan through innovative and highly qualified human resources development in the engineering field, the objectives of AUN/SEED-Net are:

- 1) to nurture internationally competitive personnel with multicultural awareness through academic cooperation among leading higher education institutions for engineering, in ASEAN and in Japan; and
- 2) to advance the education and research capacities of leading higher education institutions for engineering in the region through collaboration and solidarity between the institutions and industrial sectors in ASEAN and Japan.

### **3. Structure of AUN/SEED-Net**

AUN/SEED-Net is composed of a Steering Committee, MIs from AMS and Japanese Partner Universities and a Secretariat.





#### **4. Composition and terms of the Steering Committee Members**

The Steering Committee of AUN/SEED-Net consists of the AUN Executive Director who holds the position of AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director, a representative of the ASEAN Secretariat, a representative of the Government of Japan, a representative of JICA, and a representative of Japanese Partner Universities, and a representative from each MI from AMS. Representatives of other donors will serve as ex-officio members of the Steering Committee during the period that AUN/SEED-Net receives contributions from donors.

#### **5. Functions of the Steering Committee**

The AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee has the following functions:

- 1) To formulate policies for the network's operations;
- 2) To review and approve the activity plan prepared by the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat;
- 3) To conduct periodic reviews and evaluations of ongoing projects and activities based on the recommendations and assessments of the Executive Director;
- 4) To review and approve ideas, innovation, and/or mechanisms for sourcing and generating funds to realize a self-reliant and self-sustaining AUN/SEED-Net; and
- 5) To perform other functions necessary to achieve the objectives of AUN/SEED-Net.

#### **6. Chairmanship**

The disposition of the chairmanship and the role of the chairman are as follows:

- 1) The Chairperson of the Steering Committee will be rotated annually among the participating AMS in alphabetical order.
- 2) The role of the Chairperson is to chair and facilitate the proceedings of the Steering Committee Meetings and other related meetings.
- 3) The Chairperson will work closely with the AUN/SEED-Net Executive Director in the development of meeting agenda, in consultation with the AUN/SEED-Net Steering Committee members.

#### **7. Steering Committee Meeting**

A Steering Committee Meeting held once a year is attended by the Steering Committee Members and is to be hosted by the Chairperson online. An extraordinary meeting may be held as necessary.

A member who is unable to attend a Steering Committee Meeting should designate an official representative, through written notice of representation, to be submitted to the Executive Director prior to the meeting. The official representative will enjoy the same rights as regular members.



All decisions of the Steering Committee will be made by consensus of members and official representatives present at the Meeting.

## **8. Roles of Member Institutions (MIs)**

MIs will implement, to the best of their ability, the programs and activities of AUN/SEED-Net, for which prior consensus has been reached. MIs are encouraged to secure support by way of contributions and commitments from their respective governments, to implement the programs and activities in line with the Activity Plan as shown in the Annex.

## **9. Roles of Japanese Partner Universities (JPU)**

JPU will actively participate in the AUN/SEED-Net's education/research and industrial collaboration activities by cost-sharing with MIs. They can also become the host university for research students studying in Japan. A representative of JPU will participate in the Steering Committee meeting, and the remaining JPUs will be able to observe the meeting with the approval of the AUN/SEED-Net secretariat.

## **10. Functions of the AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat**

The Secretariat, headed by the Executive Director, has the following functions:

- 1) In coordination with the Steering Committee, plan and organize the programs, projects and activities of AUN/SEED-Net;
- 2) Coordinate, monitor and evaluate the programs, projects and activities of AUN/SEED-Net in line with the Activity Plan approved by the Steering Committee;
- 3) Approve JPUs representation and membership to the network;
- 4) Propose and develop new ideas, innovations and/or mechanisms for finding and generating funds for the realization of a self-reliant and self-sustaining AUN/SEED-Net;
- 5) Monitor and review the progress and achievements of AUN/SEED-Net and report to the Steering Committee;
- 6) Collaborate with other higher education institutions and organizations, within the region and beyond; and
- 7) Perform other functions assigned by the Steering Committee

## **11. Qualifications and terms of Executive Director**

The Executive Director of AUN will be the Executive Director of AUN/SEED-Net. The term will coincide with the term of the Executive Director of AUN.





## **12. Activity Plan**

AUN/SEED-Net develops an Activity Plan that will be approved by the Steering Committee.

## **13. Funding resources**

Activities are conducted on a cost-sharing basis by MIs. External financial resources from JICA, ASEAN and Japanese organizations will be sought to sustain and expand AUN/SEED-Net activities.

## **14. Technical cooperation**

JICA will dispatch a JICA expert to the Secretariat. It will be based on official cooperation documents between JICA and the Thai government.

## **15. Modifications**

The Cooperative Framework may be modified by the consensus of all members of the Steering Committee.

## **16. Disputes on interpretation**

Any issues or disputes concerning the interpretation of the Cooperative Framework will be settled by the Steering Committee.



## **ANNEX: Activity Plan for AUN/SEED-Net**

### **[Period]**

March 2023 - March 2026

### **[Overall Goal]**

The Overall Goals, which are expected to be achieved by March 2026, are as follows:

High-level Human Resource Development in ASEAN region and Japan is promoted and strengthened through collaboration between Member Institutions in ASEAN countries, AUN and Japan, especially by utilizing the network established by AUN/SEED-Net.

### **[Objective]**

The objective, which is expected to be achieved by March 2026 is "AUN Secretariat is able to operate the AUN/SEED-Net network, and the network will be maintained and utilized within ASEAN and Japan in addition to the cooperation with the countries beyond"

### **[Expected Output]**

The expected outputs, which are expected to be achieved by March 2026 are as follows:

- Output 1: The Function of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat will smoothly be transferred to AUN Secretariat.
- Output 2: The network among universities in ASEAN countries and Japan are continuously utilized and strengthened.
- Output 3: Collaborative Education/Collaborative Research, Networking activities including academic conferences and scholarship programs are facilitated among Member Institutions and Japanese universities.
- Output 4: Academic network cooperation beyond ASEAN region is conducted.

## **[Activities for Outputs]**

In order to produce the above-mentioned outputs, the following activities will be implemented through cooperation among MIs, JPU, AUN and JICA:

### **1. Transfer the know-how of the operation of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat to AUN Secretariat**

Until Phase 4, AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat has led and coordinated the programs within MIs and Japanese Universities. In the next stage, AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat will transfer the know-how on the planning and coordination of the programs to AUN Secretariat for the network to further develop and sustain. AUN/SEED-Net will encourage MIs and Japanese partner universities to promote the active participation in the programs in a sustainable way.

### **2. Establish a coordination desk at AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat for the collaboration of ASEAN and Japan.**

One of the most important assets of AUN/SEED-Net is the academic networks developed in the field of engineering in ASEAN and Japan. The coordination desk will promote collaboration among universities in ASEAN and Japan as well as other Japanese institutions.

### **3. Plan and conduct activities and programs in collaboration with Member Institutions in ASEAN and Japanese Universities.**

AUN/SEED-Net will further enhance the academic networks by conducting collaborative education, collaborative research, and networking activities including academic conferences so-called regional conference, organizing alumni events, and scholarship program studying in Japan. Moreover, it will collaborate with JICA Development Study program to enhance the connection between ASEAN and Japan.

### **4. Cooperate with regions beyond ASEAN.**

In phase 4, AUN/SEED-Net promoted programs that collaborate with institutions beyond ASEAN. AUN/SEED-Net will continue this effort to address urgent and important issues in accordance with the initiative of FOIP (Free and Open Indo-Pacific) and AOIP (ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific).





## **[Member Institutions in ASEAN and Japanese Partner Universities]**

### **1. Member Institutions in ASEAN**

#### **Brunei Darussalam**

- Universiti Teknologi Brunei (UTB)
- Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD)

#### **Kingdom of Cambodia**

- Institute of Technology of Cambodia (ITC)

#### **Republic of Indonesia**

- Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB)
- Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM)
- Universitas Indonesia (UI)
- Institut Teknologi Sepuluh Nopember (ITS)

#### **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

- National University of Laos (NUOL)

#### **Malaysia**

- Universiti Malaya (UM)
- Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia (UTM)
- Universiti Putra Malaysia (UPM)

#### **Republic of the Union of Myanmar**

- University of Yangon (UY)
- Yangon Technological University (YTU)

#### **Republic of the Philippines**

- De La Salle University (DLSU)
- University of the Philippines-Diliman (UP)
- Mindanao State University - Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT)

#### **Republic of Singapore**

- Nanyang Technological University (NTU)
- National University of Singapore (NUS)



## **Kingdom of Thailand**

- Burapha University (BUU)
- Chulalongkorn University (CU)
- King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang (KMITL)
- Kasetsart University (KU)
- Thammasat University (TU)

## **Socialist Republic of Viet Nam**

- Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HCMUT)
- Hanoi University of Science and Technology (HUST)

## **2. Japanese Partner University (JPU)**

The list of Japanese Partner Universities as of December 2022 is as follows. The membership of JPU is not limited to the listed Japanese universities but is open to other Japanese universities that are endorsed by AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat.

- Hokkaido University
- Keio University
- Kyoto University
- Kyushu University
- Nagoya University
- Nara Institute of Science and Technology
- Osaka University
- Shibaura Institute of Technology
- The University of Kitakyushu
- The University of Tokyo
- Tohoku University
- Tokai University
- Tokyo City University
- Tokyo Institute of Technology
- Toyohashi University of Technology
- University of Tsukuba
- Waseda University
- Yokohama National University



## **[Contribution and Commitment by concerned bodies]**

### **1. JICA**

#### **1) Expert**

- 1) Partial Cost for Program Implementation
- 2) Management Cost of AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat (Staff Salaries, etc.)

### **2. AUN**

- 1) Assignment of staff for AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat
  - Executive Director
  - AUN/SEED-Net operating staff
- 2) Administrative expenses (office space, utility costs, etc.) for AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat Office

### **3. Member Institutions and the Thai Government**

- 1) Assistant Executive Director
- 2) Costs for Program Implementation

MIIs are encouraged to pay costs for implementing programs, such as collaborative education program, collaborative research program, networking events/conference and alumni event, fully or partially according to the situation of each MI.

### **4. Other Organizations in ASEAN**

Funds and budgets for Program Implementation

END

