

CHARTER OF THE ASEAN UNIVERSITY NETWORK

The Governments of Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, Member States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), hereinafter collectively referred to as "Member States" or individually as "Member State";

RECALLING the decision of the Fourth ASEAN Summit in 1992, on the need to hasten the development of a regional identity and solidarity, and promote human resource development by considering ways to strengthen the existing network of leading universities and institutions of higher learning in the ASEAN region;

RECALLING the establishment of the ASEAN University Network in 1995 in order to strengthen university networking in Member States through various programmes and activities;

REFERRING to the ASEAN Charter signed on 20 November 2007 that provides a legal and institutional framework for ASEAN;

PURSUANT to ASEAN's commitment to establish an ASEAN Community consisting of three pillars, namely, the ASEAN Political-Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community, and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, the latter of which envisages the characteristic of human development, including advancing and prioritising education;

MINDFUL of the Cha-Am Hua Hin Declaration on Strengthening Cooperation on Education to Achieve an ASEAN Caring and Sharing Community, adopted by the Fifteenth ASEAN Summit on 24 October 2009; and

COMMITTED to utilising capabilities, expertise, and resources in promoting the sense of ASEANness as well as narrowing development gaps, and enhancing human resources in realising the objective of one ASEAN Community;

HEREBY AGREE as follows:

Article 1
Establishment of the ASEAN University Network

There shall be established the ASEAN University Network (AUN).

Article 2
Objectives

The objectives of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) are:

- (a) to provide a platform for discussion on policy development for ASEAN higher education;
- (b) to strengthen existing network of cooperation among universities in ASEAN;
- (c) to promote collaborative study, research and educational programmes on the priority areas identified by ASEAN; and
- (d) to promote cooperation and solidarity among scholars, academicians and researchers in the Member States.

Article 3 Structure of the AUN

The AUN shall be composed of Board of Trustees, Member Universities, Thematic Network, and a Secretariat.

Article 4 AUN Board of Trustees

1. The AUN Board of Trustees shall consist of:
 - (a) The Secretary-General of the Office of the Higher Education Commission (OHEC), Thailand as an ex-officio member and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, in accordance with the capacity of OHEC as the host of the AUN Secretariat;
 - (b) President/Rector/Vice-Chancellor of a Founding Member University from each Member State and President/Rector/Vice-Chancellor of one of the Original Member University representing each of the CLMV countries. Founding Member Universities and Original Member Universities of the CLMV countries are listed in Annex 1;
 - (c) Chair of Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED), as an ex-officio member;
 - (d) The Secretary-General of ASEAN, as an ex-officio member;
 - (e) The Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO) Secretariat as an ex-officio member; and
 - (f) The Executive Director of the AUN, as an ex-officio member.

2. The AUN Board of Trustees shall be headed by the Chair and meet annually in closed session.

Article 5
Functions of the AUN Board of Trustees

1. The AUN Board of Trustees shall have the following powers and functions:

- (a) to review and approve the strategic plan of the AUN and to monitor progress of its implementation and planning of its own activities;
- (b) to ensure the alignment of the AUN directions with ASEAN priorities;
- (c) to approve the establishment of AUN Thematic Networks and oversee the activities of the Networks;
- (d) to review applications for membership and formally accept new members;
- (e) to approve the annual budget plan;
- (f) to approve the audited financial report; and
- (g) to appoint the Executive Director, and approve the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the Deputy Executive Directors and their appointments.

2. The AUN Board of Trustees may invite representatives from other sectors to participate in, and contribute to, the discussion with the AUN Board of Trustees whenever deemed necessary.

Article 6
AUN Member Universities and their Roles

1. AUN membership consists of universities from Member States, as provided for in Annex 1 of this Charter. The Executive Director may update Annex 1 in accordance with Articles 4 and 7.
2. The AUN member universities' Presidents/Rectors/Vice-Chancellors shall have the following roles and responsibilities:
 - (a) to formulate policies for the operating of the network;
 - (b) to formulate the strategic plan of the AUN Secretariat;
 - (c) to approve proposals, budget allocation, work programmes and implementation activities for projects conducted by the AUN;
 - (d) to conduct periodic review and evaluation of on-going projects and activities based on the recommendations and assessment of the Executive Director; and
 - (e) to periodically assess and review the accomplishments of the AUN.
3. The AUN Rectors' Meeting/Conference shall be held at least once a year.

Article 7
Admission of New AUN Member Universities

1. The application process for the admission of new AUN member universities shall be opened every year.
2. Decision on admission of new AUN member universities requires consensus of the AUN Board of Trustees.

3. The procedures and criteria for new AUN member universities application and admission are provided for in Annex 2.

Article 8
Commitment of AUN Member Universities

1. All AUN member universities shall have equal rights to participate in all AUN activities.

2. To ensure effective collaboration, AUN member universities shall endeavour to implement the following measures in the best possible manner:

- (a) provide funding on a cost-sharing basis for projects in the region;
- (b) generate funds from other sources to support AUN projects;
- (c) allocate financial support from the budget of the university for AUN priority programmes;
- (d) facilitate collaborative research activities among AUN member universities and partners;
- (e) facilitate student, scholar, faculty, and administrator exchanges among AUN member universities and partners; and
- (f) authorise administrators or faculty members to serve in the AUN Secretariat or the AUN Board of Trustees when nominated/elected.

Article 9
AUN Secretariat

1. The AUN Secretariat shall consist of the Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and such staff as may be required.
2. The Office of the AUN Secretariat is located in Bangkok, Thailand.
3. The AUN Secretariat, with this Charter, shall hereby operate as a non-profit, autonomous organisation, international in status and non-political in management, staffing and operations.
4. The AUN Secretariat shall possess full legal personality and have the capacity to carry out activities towards the fulfilment of its objectives.
5. The working language of the AUN shall be English.

Article 10
Functions of the AUN Secretariat

The AUN Secretariat shall oversee the planning and implementation of the following functions:

- (a) plan and organise AUN programmes, projects and activities;
- (b) coordinate, monitor and evaluate AUN programmes, projects and activities;
- (c) propose and develop ideas, innovations or mechanisms for sourcing and generating funds for the operationalisation of a self-reliant and self-sustaining AUN; and

- (d) collaborate with other higher education institutions and organisations, within the region and beyond, in enhancing capacity building of ASEAN.

Article 11
Executive Director, Deputy Executive Directors, and Staff

1. The AUN Secretariat shall be managed by an Executive Director.
2. The Executive Director shall:
 - (a) hold an outstanding record in managing or directing international programmes and cooperation projects which are recognised in the region;
 - (b) be nominated by the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand, as the host country of the AUN Secretariat, and approved and appointed by the AUN Board of Trustees; and
 - (c) be willing to serve for a fixed term of four (4) years and will be eligible for reappointment for a second term in accordance with the provision in paragraph 2 (b).
3. The functions of the Executive Director shall be to:
 - (a) manage the activities of the AUN Secretariat and ensure that the objectives as defined in Article 2 are carried out;
 - (b) serve as secretary to the AUN Board of Trustees and the AUN Rectors' Meeting/ Conference; and

(c) perform such other functions assigned by the AUN Board of Trustees and the AUN Rectors' Meeting/Conference as may be deemed necessary.

4. The Executive Director shall be assisted by Deputy Executive Directors, and professional staff who are knowledgeable in the fields of ASEAN Studies, science and technology, higher education, economics, finance, law, etc.

5. The release or removal of the AUN Executive Director before the end of his/her term may be made by the approval of all members of the AUN Board of Trustees, or at the request of the AUN Board of Trustees with the endorsement of the Office of the Higher Education Commission, Thailand.

6. Any vacancy resulting from the provision in paragraph 5 or because of any other reason shall be filled in accordance with the provision in paragraph 2 (b).

Article 12 Reporting System and Accountability

The Executive Director shall render an annual progress report of AUN projects and activities to the AUN Board of Trustees.

Article 13 Budget

1. The Host Country of the AUN Secretariat shall bear the operational costs of the AUN Secretariat. In the case of secondment of Deputy Executive Directors by any Member State, that Member State shall bear the cost of performance of the task of Deputy Executive Directors.

2. AUN member universities shall be responsible for the costs of participating in AUN activities on a cost-sharing basis

unless receiving financial support from external funds, within the region or beyond.

Article 14 Account and Audit

1. Funds for the AUN Secretariat shall be deposited in a reputable bank in the account of the AUN (referred to as “the AUN Account”).
2. The AUN Account shall be managed by the Executive Director.
3. The AUN Account shall be audited by a firm approved by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

Article 15 AUN Logo

The AUN logo shall be as shown in Annex 3.

Article 16 Amendments

A request for amendments of this Charter may be initiated by any member university and presented as an agenda at the AUN Rectors' Conference before being submitted to the AUN Board of Trustees for endorsement and the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting for approval. Such amendments shall enter into force on such date as may be agreed upon by Member States.

Article 17
Settlement of Disputes

Any dispute concerning the interpretation, implementation, or application of this Charter shall be settled amicably through consultation and negotiation among Member States.

Article 18
Final Provisions

1. This Charter shall enter into force upon signature by all Member States and shall replace the Charter of the ASEAN University Network signed on 30 November 1995.

2. This Charter shall be deposited with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, who shall promptly furnish a certified copy thereof to each Member State.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorised thereto by their respective Governments, have signed this Charter.

DONE at the respective capitals of ASEAN member states on the dates indicated in one original copy in the English language.

ANNEX 1 AUN MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

1. The AUN was founded in 1995 through the signing of the Agreement on the Establishment of the AUN and consisted of 11 founding member universities from six ASEAN Member States as follows:

- (a) Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- (b) Universitas Indonesia
- (c) Universitas Gadjah Mada
- (d) Universiti Sains Malaysia
- (e) University of Malaya
- (f) University of the Philippines
- (g) De La Salle University
- (h) National University of Singapore
- (i) Nanyang Technological University
- (j) Chulalongkorn University
- (k) Burapha University

2. With the admission of new Member States to ASEAN from 1995 to 1999, the number of AUN Members increased from 11 to 17 with the addition of the six original member universities from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. These universities are as follows:

- (a) Royal University of Phnom Penh

- (b) National University of Laos
- (c) Institute of Economics, Yangon
- (d) University of Yangon
- (e) Vietnam National University, Hanoi
- (f) Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City

3. In 2007, 2009, 2010, and 2013, the AUN also undertook further enlargements with 13 new members. Currently the AUN consists of 30 member universities from 10 ASEAN Member States.

4. The current members are:

- (a) **Brunei Darussalam**
Universiti Brunei Darussalam
- (b) **Cambodia**
Royal University of Phnom Penh
Royal University of Law and Economics
- (c) **Indonesia**
Universitas Gadjah Mada
Universitas Indonesia
Institut Teknologi Bandung
Airlangga University
- (d) **Lao PDR**
National University of Laos

- (e) **Malaysia**
 - Universiti Malaya
 - Universiti Sains Malaysia
 - Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
 - Universiti Putra Malaysia
 - Universiti Utara Malaysia

- (f) **Myanmar**
 - Yangon University of Economics
 - University of Yangon
 - University of Mandalay

- (g) **Philippines**
 - De La Salle University
 - University of the Philippines
 - Ateneo de Manila University

- (h) **Singapore**
 - National University of Singapore
 - Nanyang Technological University
 - Singapore Management University

- (i) **Thailand**
 - Burapha University
 - Chulalongkorn University
 - Mahidol University
 - Chiang Mai University
 - Prince of Songkla University

- (j) **Viet Nam**
 - Vietnam National University, Hanoi
 - Vietnam National University, Ho Chi Minh City
 - Can Tho University

ANNEX 2
ADMISSION OF NEW MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

CHAPTER 1

AUN MEMBER UNIVERSITIES

Article 1
Procedure

The AUN Secretariat shall conduct the admission process for membership enlargement. This process will be initiated by the distribution of application packages to the Ministries responsible for higher education in the ASEAN Member States. Subsequently, interested and qualified institutions/universities must submit their applications directly to the AUN Secretariat with the approval of the Ministries by the given deadline.

Article 2
Criteria for Admission

1. Admission shall be based on the following criteria:
 - (a) Recognition of the university's/institution's status as a centre of excellence in priority disciplines: The university should be among the leading universities in the country or in the region. The university should also be recognised for its excellence in teaching and/or research. Furthermore, the university must have a mission to promote research and scholarship, which can be indicated by the level of research funding and number of research-based programmes conducted at graduate level. The university should

have attained broad excellence in carrying out the activities of its educational mission and have developed quality and innovative educational programmes at degree and professional levels;

- (b) Faculty and academic strength: A high number of academic staff, with high academic credential, as well as the ratio of students and faculty staff should reflect the faculty and academic strength;
- (c) Experience in regional or international programmes: The university must show evidence that it has a strong international orientation with adequate regional and international programmes for effective participation and collaboration. The university must also participate actively in international activities, such as university consortiums, forums or meetings; and
- (d) Existence of adequate laboratories, libraries and other facilities; The university must possess substantial research and reference resources including sufficient laboratories, libraries and other infrastructures in order to provide a rigorous academic environment for high quality education.

2. In addition to the above four original criteria, the following criteria should also be considered:

- (a) Geographical balance: As a regional network, the number of members per country should reflect a good balance of members from each member country. There should not be a particular member country with too many member institutions, resulting in an imbalance for effective cooperation and exchange;
- (b) Ability to participate in and host AUN activities: Universities must have the financial and human

resources to actively participate in the majority of AUN activities;

- (c) Preference to be given to public rather than private universities: The contributions of public and private universities are essential for networking among higher education institutions in the region, but preference is given to public institutions due to greater accessibility and opportunities and support for the public
- (d) Preference to be given to comprehensive universities rather than specialised universities: At this stage in the development of AUN, the scope of AUN activities involves a wide range of disciplines which require the participation of comprehensive universities rather than specialised universities; and
- (e) Establishment of the university for a minimum of ten years.

CHAPTER 2

ASSOCIATE MEMBER OF THE AUN THEMATIC NETWORKS

Article 1 Criteria for Admission

1. The admission criteria for the AUN Thematic Networks are:
 - (a) The university must have been established for at least 10 years;

- (b) The institution shall be recognised by the national QA agencies and/or the relevant ministry of the country where the university is registered or operated; and
- (c) Shall demonstrate university/faculty expertise that support the work of relevant thematic networks.

Article 2
AUN Thematic Networks Membership Process

1. Submit the following documents to the Thematic Network Secretariats:
 - (a) Letter of Intent signed by the rector/president/chancellor;
 - (b) Completed application form;
 - (c) Documentation from the organisation that authorises the institution to grant degrees; and
 - (d) Current organisation chart of the institution and/or the unit responsible for the thematic areas.
2. The Secretariats would forward it to the Thematic Network committees for deliberation.
3. The Thematic Network Secretariats might ask for further documents or proceed with their decision. Both of which case, the information will be relayed by the Secretariat to the institution's contact person.
4. Upon approval, the Secretariat will send an official acceptance letter.
5. Membership fee might be applicable to some of the Thematic Networks according to the decision of the Thematic Network committees.

CHAPTER 3

AUN THEMATIC NETWORKS

Article 1 Introduction

When it is deemed essential that there be created and organised in ASEAN University Network (AUN) the sub-network of AUN, with the mission which is concentrated on the specific or specialized academic subject matter, the AUN Executive Director may recommend to the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT) the establishment of such sub-network to be known as an AUN Thematic Network.

Article 2 Establishment

1. AUN Member Universities may initiate the establishment of AUN Thematic Network, and may put themselves forward to host the Secretariat of that Thematic Network, by submitting the Proposal on the Establishment of AUN Thematic Network (Proposal) to the AUN Secretariat.
2. The AUN Secretariat is authorized on behalf of the AUN-BOT to examine into the details of the Proposal submitted by AUN Member Universities in order to determine and evaluate the benefits, feasibility, readiness and appropriateness of said Proposal and of the proposed Thematic Network Secretariat.
3. The establishment of the AUN Thematic Network shall be endorsed by the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT).

Article 3
Proposal on the Establishment of AUN Thematic Network

The Proposal may include, but not limited to:

- (a) Background Information;
- (b) Terms of Reference (Mission);
- (c) Membership;
- (d) Board of the Thematic Network
 - (i) Composition;
 - (ii) Meetings; and
 - (iii) Responsibilities
- (e) Thematic Network Secretariat;
- (f) Responsibilities;
- (g) Management;
 - (i) Duration; and
 - (ii) Outputs (Updates to the AUN-BOT)
- (h) Long-term Goals and Plan of Action;
- (i) Budgets/Financial Plan; and
- (j) Organisation's Public Profile (host of the Secretariat)

**ANNEX 3
AUN LOGO**



1. The idea of the logo came from the Mobius Strip which has no ending. Its use in the AUN logo implies the meaning of continuous cooperation and networking among the ASEAN countries. The red implies the dynamism of the organisation and the power of AUN. The specifications of Pantone colour adopted for the colour of the AUN logo are:

- (a) Black Pantone Process Black U/C;
- (b) Blue Pantone 286;
- (c) Red (inner) Pantone Red 032;
- (d) Red (outer) Pantone 485U/485C; and
- (e) Yellow Pantone Process Yellow.

2. For five-colour printing process, the specifications of colours will be:

- (a) Black 0C 0M 0Y 100K 0R 0G 0B;
- (b) Blue 100C 60M 0Y 6K (100C 60M 0Y 10K);
- (c) Red (inner) 0C 91M 87Y 0K (0C 90M 90Y 0K);
- (d) Red (outer) 0C 100M 100Y 0K 237R 28G 36B
1ed24c; and

(e) Yellow 0C 0M 100Y 0K.

3. The font used for the word “asean” in the logo is lower-case Helvetica in bold.
4. The font used for the word “AUN” on the right side of the logo is Eucrosia in bold.