

A background image showing a scientist in a blue lab coat and glasses looking through a microscope in a laboratory setting. The scene is dimly lit with blue tones, and the scientist's hand is visible adjusting the microscope.

ASEA-UNINET

ASEAN - European Academic
University Network



Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bernd M. Rode

Bernd Rode Award

This award is named in honour of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bernd M. Rode, the founder of ASEA-UNINET. The Bernd Rode Award is granted, starting in 2016, to outstanding scientific and higher education collaborations between European and South-East Asian universities in the framework of ASEA-UNINET and is awarded every 18 months in three categories (Junior, Senior, Project Excellence).

ASEA-UNINET - A sustainable Vision

Having initiated and further developed a number of bilateral cooperations between Austrian universities and universities in Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam in the 1980s and 1990s I got the idea that cooperation could become much more efficient, if all involved institutions would be united in a network, overcoming all problems arising from incompatible faculty structures in bilateral projects. The idea was welcomed by all partners and thus a founding conference for the network was held in Ho Chi Minh City / Saigon in 1994, creating ASEA-UNINET as an Austrian South-East Asian University network. Soon universities in other European and Asian countries became interested in joining this network, and after their inclusion the network was transformed into the ASEAN-European Academic University Network of today.

The main focus was and is on doctoral studies and postgraduate research projects, making it unique among academic mobility programmes

and forming the basis for its extraordinary success. This success can be recognised from the large number of research publications and alumni, the alumni's present positions and the long-lasting relations between participants, and also from fruitful cooperations with industrial companies and government authorities.

It can be predicted, therefore, that ASEA-UNINET has a very bright future, in particular as the Asian partners invest more and more into education and research, providing excellent conditions for the European participants in joint projects. It can be truly seen as a shining example of how mutual understanding and scientific as well as intercultural cooperation can achieve technological progress and long-lasting relations between countries and people.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bernd Michael Rode
 Founder of ASEA-UNINET,
 Honorary President of ASEA-UNINET

ASEA-UNINET – Mission Statement

ASEA-UNINET acts as a role model for cooperation and quality research between Europe and the ASEAN region. Recognizing the process of increasing globalization and of continuous internationalisation of education and research, ASEA-UNINET builds its success on equal footing in collaboration and fostering scientific and intercultural exchange.

Mission

ASEA-UNINET was founded in 1994 by Austrian and South-East Asian (Indonesian, Thai and Vietnamese) universities as an association of European and South-East Asian universities with the following mission

- to encourage and facilitate relationships between universities, governmental and non-governmental organisations and economic operators engaged in projects related to education, science, technology, innovation and art in the countries of the member universities
- to contribute research relevant to the world's problems, specifically to the target areas set out in the sustainable development goals and implementing SDG's slogan of "no one should be left behind"
- to enable and support cooperation between academic institutions in staff/student exchange, teaching and research activities
- to promote scientific, cultural and human relationships and personal contacts and to increase intercultural exchange and understanding

United Efforts

The partners of ASEA-UNINET decided to unite their efforts in

- assisting the formation of coalitions of resources for academic activities between member institutions
- initiating projects and programmes of mutual interest and benefit for faculties, staff and students
- recruiting funding and financing for those programmes and activities by all member institutions from university and national government sources, as well as international funding agencies and from the private sector according to available project lines
- maintaining a fair balance in contributions to projects and programmes among the partners according to their economic and financial situation
- acting as a forum of continuous discussions on the progress of these projects, and serving as a network of excellence providing expertise and initiatives for entities seeking European-S.E.Asian relations.

Students – Exchange – Professors

Mobility – Research – Joint Projects

Training Courses – Education – Full Scholarships

Since 2017, with regards to the UN Sustainable Development goals for 2030, ASEA-UNINET puts emphasis on programmes targeting socioeconomic and sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



ASEA-UNINET – Further information and contact

Executives, national representatives and coordinators of all member universities:

www.asea-uninet.org/network-members

Coordinator for Austria

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Austrian Database for Scholarships and Research Grants: www.grants.at

www.asea-uninet.org



Prof. DI Dr. Bernd Nidetzky (Graz University of Technology)
on his way to visit the University of Danang, Vietnam.

Umbrella Agreement of ASEA-UNINET Member Universities

Initiated in 2014, this multilateral agreement highlights the excellent working relationship within ASEA-UNINET during the past 20 years. The Umbrella Agreement aims to enhance the cooperation by means of general agreements on procedures and the facilitation of study and research programmes performed within ASEA-UNINET.



Nguyen Thi Kim Truc, MA (University of Danang/
Vietnam) in conversation with Prof. Dietmar Haltrich
(BOKU Vienna/Austria)

Austrian contribution to ASEA-UNINET in numbers

- ... financial support of more than 100
projects per year
- ... more than 1,500 incoming scientists
- ... more than 500 alumni (PhD programme)
since the foundation of ASEA-UNINET,
more than 1,000 since the beginning of the
Austrian ASEAN academic cooperation

ASEA-UNINET – Best Practice Examples

Neurocritical Care Medicine: Austrian Malaysian Collaboration

After a successful scientific collaboration on arboviral encephalitides, comparing epidemiology, clinical features and morbidity/mortality patterns of tick-borne encephalitis (Central Europe) with Japanese encephalitis (Malaysia), a second step of intensive collaboration between these two universities was started in the area of postgraduate training. A set of teaching courses in critical care neurology was planned and finally organized involving the Department of Neurology, Neurocritical Care Unit, Medical University of Innsbruck, Austria and the Universiti Putra Malaysia, Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery, Anaesthesiology and Intensive Care Medicine as well as the Department of Nuclear Medicine.

In addition to these highly practically organised teaching courses with hands-on teaching at the Malaysian CCUs, further training in various aspects of Critical Care Neurology is offered to interested Malaysian trainees/residents in Neurology, Neurosurgery and/or Intensive Care Medicine.

In 2019 the Neurocritical Care teaching activities were successfully extended to Pakistan.

*Prof. Dr. Erich Schmutzhard, ASEA-UNINET Coordinator,
Medical University of Innsbruck/Austria & Prof. Dr. Abdul Jalil
Nordin, Universiti Putra Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur/Malaysia*

AIC - ATC Joint Labs

The establishment of two joint labs, the Austrian-Thai Centre (ATC) and the Austrian-Indonesian Centre (AIC) for computational chemistry, is an excellent example of the trend-setting cooperation activities of ASEA-UNINET. Based on the long-lasting cooperation between the Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand and the Leopold-Franzens University Innsbruck, the Austrian-Thai Centre for Computer-Assisted Chemical Education and Research Building was founded in 1990 on the initiative of Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Bernd Michael Rode with funds of the development-aid budget under the Foreign Minister Dr. Alois Mock.

Thanks to the close cooperations between Thailand and Austria many different research topics could be jointly worked on, leading to many outstanding publications in internationally renowned journals. Furthermore, the research area of Theoretical and Computational Chemistry was established as a separate academic subject at the partner universities. Moreover, in 2014 the donation of a high performance computing (HPC) system to the AIC was made possible. This donation is associated with appropriate scientific programmes.

*Assoc. Prof. Dr. Thomas Hofer, ASEA-UNINET Coordinator,
University of Innsbruck/Austria*

Analysing soil and food: when lab equipment travels

Being able to analyse the elements in a sample is crucial; soil scientists want to know how much carbon and nitrogen is available for plants, food scientists can estimate protein content from the ratio of these elements, and much more. As part of a longstanding collaboration between Universitas Gadjah Mada (UGM) and BOKU Vienna an elementary analyser from the Institute of Soil Research was transferred from Vienna to Yogyakarta where it is now being used at the Department of Agricultural Biosystems Engineering and at the Department of Food and Agricultural Product Technology. A training course for the Indonesian colleagues was set up by a team involving two BOKU institutes and a technician from the company who built the analyser. Co-supervised students of BOKU Vienna and UGM are already using the instrument for their research. The activity is part of a joint project on soil. Project video: <https://youtu.be/3nH356Ldxk>

Dr. Axel Mentler, Dr. Katharina Keiblinger, Dr. Rosana Kral, University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences Vienna (BOKU)/Austria



The Architecture of the Affandi Museum: Approaches to a Piece of Art

The Affandi Museum in Yogyakarta houses the art collection of Affandi, who is considered Indonesia's foremost Expressionist painter. The building's design was inspired by the traditional vernacular architecture of Indonesia, it was designed by the artist himself and is also a work of art. However, with the passage of time, the buildings show signs of decay and are in urgent need of restoration. The negative impact of weather and other factors on the envelope and interiors has already caused a number of paintings to be damaged. This poses a critical threat to Indonesia's contemporary cultural heritage as Affandi's paintings are considered an integral part of that heritage. Inspired by an idea of Mr. Affandi's daughter Kartika Affandi, two universities in Austria (TU Wien and the Danube University Krems) are collaborating with the Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta to develop a sustainable restoration and maintenance project for the Affandi Museum.

DI Dr. Ulrike Herbig, Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)/Austria



Federated Ethno-musicological Data Repositories at ASEA-UNINET Partners

South-East Asian musical heritage is particularly rich, highly diverse and scattered across multiple countries and regions. The same holds true for existing ethno-musicological resources, which are kept in individual repositories collecting various kinds of data ranging from written sources (manuscripts, music sheets, publications) to audio and video recordings, described by diverse metadata using an incompatible data structure. Data search in such self-contained storages is difficult and searching across multiple repositories very time-consuming to impossible. This presents a massive barrier for conducting musicological research. A number of ASEA-UNINET partners from the areas of musicological research and IT departments are currently teaming up to overcome these barriers by analysing data holdings, comparing current practices in data management, elaborating use cases for computer-aided music research and developing joint practices and federated repository infrastructures to ensure findability, accessibility, interoperability and reusability (FAIR) of the valuable data held in musicological research institutions.

Asst. Prof. Alex Hofmann, PhD, Department of Music Acoustics – Wiener Klangstil, University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna (mdw)/Austria

Prof. Dr. Andreas Rauber, Head of the Information and Software Engineering Group, Institute of Information Systems Engineering, Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)/Austria

ASEA-UNINET – Testimonials



Education, teaching, training and research, ideally based on international collaboration and networking, for students, trainees and teachers alike, are the most important door-openers to the future development and growth in our regional societies, in our highly specialised professional fields and, in particular, in the worldwide improvement of our service for every society. Global networking is the essence of fruitful and peaceful communication and collaboration in every field. The Medical University Innsbruck is proud to be a member of one of the best examples of such an intercontinental network, the ASEA-UNINET. Photo © Erich Schmutzhard

Prof. Dr. Erich Schmutzhard, Department of Neurology – NICU, Medical University Innsbruck/Austria



ASEA-UNINET has given me the opportunity of a lifetime by including me in their programme. After spending 3 weeks filled with various academic activities in Austria centring on sustainability research I was beyond ecstatic. As a researcher from Asia I was exposed to a new level of sustainability research. ASEA-UNINET has taken my interest in sustainability through my innovation work to a whole new level. Sustainability through innovation is a concept yet to be fully explored in Asia. I realised that there are many other researchers all around the globe with the common goal of supporting and solving sustainability issues and challenges. Without the ASEA-UNINET's organisational and financial support all of this would be impossible.

Photo © Risyawati

Dr. Risyawati Mohamed Ismail, Director, Asian Halal Laboratory (AHAL) Institute, Universiti Utara Malaysia/Malaysia



It is becoming increasingly difficult to ignore the importance of international networking for the university. ASEA-UNINET is one of the platforms to increase cooperation between ASEAN and EUROPEAN universities. Being a member of ASEA-UNINET provided a lot of advantages in terms of research collaborations, knowledge sharing between the two continents and also student/staff mobility. I do believe that ASEA-UNINET is one of the best networking associations joined by the Universiti Utara Malaysia. #ASEAUNINETisthebest.

Assoc. Prof. Mohamad Farizal Rajemi, PhD, Director, Center for International Affairs and Cooperation, Universiti Utara Malaysia/Malaysia, ASEA-UNINET Vice-President and Regional Coordinator for South-East Asia



It is a great honour for me to receive the post-doctoral scholarship and Bernd Rode Award from ASEA-UNINET. Its supports give me the opportunity to deepen the fuel cell research at Graz University of Technology. Also, I have the chance to meet academic people and scholarship holders from Austria, Thailand and other countries to work in cooperation to achieve our research goals and extend the future cooperation between Thailand and Austria. All positive effects and benefits would not have occurred without the support from ASEA-UNINET. Photo © N. Ngamsidhipongsra

Asst. Prof. Dr. Suthida Authayanun, Department of Chemical Engineering, Srinakharinwirot University/Thailand



While each scientific discipline has developed its own methods and techniques in research and education, cooperation and collaboration in an open-minded setting are crucial for successful achievements across all disciplines. ASEA-UNINET has become an essential platform supporting a fruitful and mutually beneficial exchange between its European and Asian member institutions. The initiative is driven by the excellent contributions of all the individual researchers, scientists and students but also the significant support of all the organising staff ensuring a lively and active network. Photo © JKU

Prof. Dr. Gabriele Anderst-Kotsis, Head of the Telecooperation Department, Johannes Kepler University Linz/Austria, ASEA-UNINET President



ASEA-UNINET has been one of the most important things that changed my life. Because of my middle-class family background in Thailand I only had one hope to study abroad during my graduation time at Mahidol University. My parents would not have been able to support me to continue studying opera with our own funds. Fortunately I was lucky to get a scholarship to study at the Mozarteum University Salzburg, with Prof. Mario Diaz Varas. Studying in Europe with the support of ASEA-UNINET has given me the opportunity to meet people and experience the bigger path of a singing career. I was very lucky to have met the right teacher and made it to the admission exam. From an unknown Thai opera singer to singing the title role alongside the greatest singers of the world in Mozartwoche 2019 (headed by Rolando Villazón) and making a life changing career in Europe. This would not have been possible without receiving the ASEA-UNINET scholarship that gave me the chance to experience and to continue on this path in one of the most wonderful parts of the music world. Photo © N. Thammathi, The photo shows Mr. N. Thammathi and the opera singer Mr. Rolando Villazón, the Artistic Director of the Mozartwoche. **Nutthaporn Thammathi, BA Mozarteum University Salzburg/Austria, BA Mahidol University/Thailand**



Through ASEA-UNINET Technology Grants Southeast Asia I was able to pursue a doctoral degree in food biotechnology at the BOKU Vienna. ASEA-UNINET became instrumental not only to my personal advances but also to my professional growth. I was able to present my research work in different international fora and publish peer-reviewed journal articles, which made me more adept in my chosen field. In our research group I worked with international students that helped me enhance my foreign language proficiency and intercultural understanding. Those valuable experiences gave me new perspectives that have a long-lasting impact on my life. Photo © Sheryl Lozel Bico-Arreola

Dr. Sheryl Lozel Bico-Arreola, Asst. Prof., Institute of Chemistry, University of the Philippines Los Baños, ASEA-UNINET Technology Grants Southeast Asia Recipient



The ASEA-UNINET has taken the academic exchange between universities in Indonesia, Austria and all the other participating countries to a new level, paving the way for many fruitful projects which otherwise might not have been possible. By actively promoting scholarship programmes, it has given many students and scholars the opportunity to broaden their horizons and contribute to both their host and their home countries. The activities of ASEA-UNINET and its member universities constitute one of the highly successful and productive areas of bilateral cooperation between Austria and Indonesia. I wish the ASEA-UNINET long-lasting success in all its endeavors, from which our countries and our bilateral relations benefit so much.

Dr. Andreas Karabaczek, Austrian Ambassador to Indonesia (2012-2016)

ASEA-UNINET – Member universities

→ Austria

University of Innsbruck
University of Vienna
University of Graz
University of Klagenfurt
Johannes Kepler University Linz
University of Salzburg
Vienna University of Technology (TU Wien)
Danube University Krems
Graz University of Technology
University of Natural Resources and Life Sciences, Vienna
Vienna University of Economics and Business
Montanuniversität Leoben
University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna
University of Applied Arts Vienna
University of Music and Performing Arts Vienna
University of Music and Performing Arts Graz
Mozarteum University Salzburg
Medical University of Innsbruck
Medical University of Graz
Medical University of Vienna

→ Cambodia

Royal University of Phnom-Penh

→ Czech Republic

Czech Technical University in Prague
Technical University of Liberec

→ Germany

University of Passau

→ Greece

University of Ioannina

→ Indonesia

Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta
Institute of Technology, Surabaya
Diponegoro University, Semarang
Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta
Institute of Technology Bandung
Udayana University, Bali
University of Sumatera Utara
Airlangga University
Bogor Agricultural University
Hasanuddin University
Institut Seni Indonesia Yogyakarta

→ Iran (associate member)

Sharif University of Technology
Shiraz University

→ Italy

University of Trento
Politecnico di Milano
Università degli Studi di Brescia
Free University of Bozen-Bolzano

→ Malaysia

Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (The National University of Malaysia)
Universiti Putra Malaysia
Universiti Malaya
Universiti Teknikal Malaysia Melaka
Universiti Utara Malaysia
Universiti Sains Malaysia
Universiti Teknologi Mara

→ Myanmar

Yangon Technological University
University of Mandalay

→ Pakistan (associate member)

University of Karachi

→ Philippines

University of the Philippines, Quezon City

→ Portugal

University of Porto

→ Slovakia

Comenius University in Bratislava

→ Spain

University of Murcia

→ **Thailand**

Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok
Mahidol University, Bangkok
Kasetsart University, Bangkok
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology Ladkrabang
King Mongkut's University of Technology North Bangkok
King Mongkut's University of Technology Thonburi
Chiang Mai University
Khon Kaen University
Mahasarakham University
Naresuan University, Phitsanulok
Prince-of-Songkla University, Hat Yai
Suranaree University of Technology, Nakhon Ratchasima
Silpakorn University, Bangkok
Srinakharinwirot University, Bangkok
Thammasat University, Bangkok
Burapha University
Ramkhamhaeng University, Bangkok
Ubon Ratchathani University

→ **Vietnam**

Vietnam National University of Ho Chi Minh City
University of Medicine & Pharmacy of Ho Chi Minh City
Vietnam National Academy of Music, Hanoi
Hanoi Academy of Theatre and Cinema
Hanoi University
Hanoi University of Science and Technology
Hue University
National Economics University, Hanoi
University of Danang
University of Transport and Communications, Hanoi
Vietnam National University of Agriculture, Hanoi



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