

SHARE-NUS Seminar on Ensuring Quality During Challenging Times
Opening Remarks by EU Ambassador Iwona Piórko
Date & Time: Monday, 22nd November
9am

Venue: Block G, Level 3 Multiple Purpose Room 1&2, Ridge View Residential College, National University of Singapore, Singapore 119081

Format: Hybrid Event

Good Morning

- **Professor Tan Eng Chye**, President, National University of Singapore;
- **Ambassador Toru Morikawa**, Executive Director, Asia-Europe Foundation;
- **Ms Jan Chua**, Coordinating Divisional Director, Higher Education Group, Ministry of Education Singapore;
- **Dr Thorsten Clausing**, Counsellor - Science and Technology, German Embassy Singapore;
- **Dr Joybrato Mukherjee**, President, German Academic Exchange Service;
- **Mr Michael Hoerig**, Head of Division – Strategic Planning, DAAD

Speaking points

- At first let me congratulate the teams from NUS and SHARE on this timely seminar exploring ways of “*Ensuring Quality during Challenging Times*”. Thank you for inviting me to deliver the opening the remarks;
- Human development, in particular higher education and students have always been an important part of the EU’s cooperation with ASEAN because they play a crucial role in the future of our regions;
- Despite the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, the EU has continued its support for students and higher education. The pandemic has compelled us to come up with new ways of communicating and connecting. By going digital, just in September of this year the EU Delegation to Singapore in close cooperation with the EU Member States were able to reach out to 15,000 students in the region through our higher education fair “*Study in Europe*”;
- These connections and conversations are ever more important in the new normal and we stay committed to deepening them.

- With its focus on intra-ASEAN student mobility, EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN region or the SHARE programme allows us to build partnerships and networks in the realm of education.
- In developing this programme, we have drawn inspiration from the many strengths of the EU's Erasmus Plus flagship programme. Through SHARE, the EU has been able to actively contribute to establishing an ASEAN branded scholarship and mobility scheme that emulates the many successes of Erasmus Plus. As Erasmus and SHARE have both demonstrated, the opportunity to live and study in another country and immerse in another culture as a student offers unparalleled experiences that shape lives, careers and futures.
- Since 2016, the SHARE programme has facilitated intra-ASEAN student mobility by providing 500 scholarships. By the end of 2022, the programme will have offered 300 more scholarships.
- Our experience in Europe with Erasmus has shown that creating better conditions for mobility leads to closer relations between the participating universities – particularly if staff are involved. Exchange projects lead to wider academic cooperation and research spin-offs between institutions. Erasmus Plus now has a strong international dimension for Asia-Europe mobility **and** cooperation. In most ASEAN countries, universities can apply for capacity-building projects¹ to develop new teaching, skills and governance among the region's universities. We are also looking for new Erasmus Mundus master programmes, joint programmes, which can involve universities from Singapore and other ASEAN countries to design and deliver in joint programmes together with European universities. A call for proposals for this entire international dimension will be launched later this month.
- Truly pleased to be here today to support this seminar. It allows me to see how university leaders and students are involved in discussions centred around building stronger regional networks. These can only promote the exchange of knowledge and ideas for our collective future as well as enhance people-to-people connectivity.
- Before I conclude, please allow me to acknowledge the important role of the ASEAN Secretariat, which has been placing great emphasis on building a regional higher education space that brings people together. I can only concur with how important it is to allow all stakeholders to engage in intra-regional networking. You can count on the European Union as your partner in this, today and in the future.
- I thank the President of the National University of Singapore Tan Eng Chye and the teams from both SHARE and NUS for this event. I wish all every success. Thank you.

¹ Background – Capacity-building projects are not open to the countries classed as industrialised, i.e. Singapore and Brunei in ASEAN.

Title	EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (EU SHARE) 2020–2022
Duration	Twenty-two months (22 months)
Geographical scope	All ASEAN countries: Brunei Darussalam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Viet Nam, with particular focus on Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV)
Total cost	EUR 5,175,000 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU contribution EUR 5,000,000 • British Council contribution: EUR 175,000
Implementing partner	British Council: Consortium Lead, UK Associated consortium members: The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany Nuffic (the Dutch organisation for internationalisation in education), The Netherlands The European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), Belgium
Target groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ASEAN Secretariat • Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) • ASEAN and national level Higher Education (HE) policy makers • ASEAN-wide and national organisations responsible for Quality Assurance, and Qualifications Frameworks for HE • ASEAN level and national organisations responsible for developing and maintaining academic credit transfer schemes for HE • Students seeking mobility opportunities for HE
Final beneficiaries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ASEAN Higher Education community • ASEAN National Education ministries • Higher Education institutions within ASEAN • ASEAN Higher Education students
Overall objective	To strengthen regional co-operation, enhance the quality, regional competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN Higher Education institutions and students, contributing to an ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond.
Purpose (specific objectives)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To enhance the harmonisation of ASEAN Higher Education (HE) area through the formulation of ASEAN Higher Education frameworks, taking into account the EU experience and promotion of equal access for girls and women to quality Higher Education free from discrimination. • To support mutual recognition, student mobility and equal opportunities for all, including female students, and people with disabilities, among HEIs in ASEAN, and to strengthen people to people connectivity
Expected outputs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enhanced opportunities for policy dialogue on strategic issues of harmonisation of ASEAN higher education, including equal opportunities and gender equality promotion of equal access for girls and women to quality higher education which is free from discrimination and special considerations to those living in a vulnerable situation, involving variety of stakeholders including ASEAN and EU as required • ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework and ASEAN Regional Quality Assurance including disaggregated data collection further developed and supported, both taking into consideration the promotion of equal access for girls and women to quality higher education which is free from discrimination • ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System (AECTS) further developed and tested through mobility with scholarships, which take into consideration the promotion of equal access for girls and women to quality higher education which is free from discrimination