

**REPORT**  
**THE SECOND ASEAN-CHINA RECTORS' CONFERENCE**  
**15 – 16 MARCH 2007, HANOI**

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**INTRODUCTION**

1. The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference was held on 15 – 16 March 2007 in Hanoi.
2. The Meeting was attended by Presidents/ Rectors/ Vice-Chancellors or representatives and delegates from the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Member Universities, namely Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Royal University of Phnom Penh, Bandung Institute of Technology, University of Indonesia, National University of Laos, University of Malaya, Universiti Sains Malaysia, De La Salle University, University of the Philippines, National University of Singapore, Burapha University, Chulalongkorn University, Mahidol University, Vietnam National University-Hanoi, Vietnam National University – Ho Chi Minh City; from the Chinese Participating Universities, namely Beijing Foreign Studies University, Fudan University, Guanxi University, Hunan University, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Ocean University of China, Peking University, Shandong University, South China University of technology, Sun Yat-Sen University, University of Science and Technology Beijing, Xiamen University, Yunnan Agricultural University, Yunnan Normal University, Yunnan University and Yunnan University of Finance and Economics; Mr. Cao Guoxing, Director-General of the Department of International Co-operation and Exchange, Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China (MOE) and 3 representatives from MOE, Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Secretary-General of Commission on Higher Education, Thailand and Chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees, Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, Special Assistant to Secretary General of ASEAN and 6 representatives from the ASEAN University Network. Also in attendance at the Meeting as observers were delegates from the Ministry of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China, the Embassy of Brunei Darussalam in Vietnam, the Embassy of Singapore in Hanoi and the Embassy of Indonesia in Vietnam. The list of delegates appears as **Annex 1**.
3. The Programme of the Second ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference appears as **Annex 2**.

**OPENING SESSION**

4. Prof. Dr. Dao Trong Thi, President of Vietnam National University-Hanoi, extended his warm welcome to all participants to the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference. He mentioned the importance of organizing the conference. It would provide a good chance for ASEAN and Chinese universities to explore further opportunities for the effective co-operation which we could achieve our missions and work out further collaborative projects. As the knowledge-based economy had

brought a lot of new challenges and new opportunities, ASEAN and Chinese universities should think of the ways to seize all these golden opportunities and prepare to face all challenges in order to provide highly qualified human resources for the development of our respective countries. The presence of the number of presidents, rectors and vice-chancellors and in the conference showed the great attention and common interests for enhancing the collaboration among our academic community. The full text of the welcome address appears as **Annex 3**.

5. H.E. Prof. Tran Van Nhung, Vice-Minister, Ministry of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, warmly welcomed all distinguished delegates. He mentioned that the co-operation among ASEAN members had vigorously developed over the last years, especially in the fields of culture and higher education. To build the ASEAN Community, many activities had been conducted within ASEAN member countries as well as with the dialogue partners. With China, the co-operation would aim to promote mutual-understanding and development in contributing to regional peace and prosperity through close partnership in various fields. He ended his statement with the belief that university leaders could make the best and most effective value of this gathering to further tighten the fine co-operation among ASEAN and Chinese universities. The full text of the address appears as **Annex 4**.
6. Mr. Cao Guoxing, Director-General, Department of International Co-operation and Exchange, Ministry of Education of P.R.China, expressed his congratulation to the conference and welcome to all the participants. To face a trend towards economic globalisation and world-polarization, more emphasis would be on dialogue and co-ordination between nations and human resources become a golden opportunity. In 2006, ASEAN and China celebrated the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the establishment of the partnership. Both sides reviewed achievements and experiences in developing partnership and also opened a new era of further strengthening and deepening strategic partnership relations. He mentioned that, at the 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference in June 2002, ASEAN and Chinese universities had developed great co-operation in sharing experiences in educational development, scholar exchange, student exchange, scientific research, personnel training. Again in 2007, both sides gathered together in views on co-operation in advanced scientific research, training of high-level professionals, mutual recognition of academic qualifications and degrees, research on studies of China and ASEAN members, language education other academic fields of both interests. In addition, he expressed his wish for the promotion of boarder connection among universities, various youth exchange programmes, academic exchanges and collaboration, substantial exchanges and co-operation between China and ASEAN. The full text of the address appears as **Annex 5**.
7. Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Secretary-General of Commission on Higher Education, Thailand and Chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees, began his statement by providing a brief overview of the ASEAN-China relations, which had been developed in depth for fifteen years, covering political and security, economics and trade, socio-cultural and people-to-people contact. At the ASEAN-China Summit in 2001, the human resource development had become one of five priority areas for implementing in the early part of the twentieth first century. In response to the

agreement, the ASEAN University Network (AUN) and Ministry of Education of P.R. China had actively served as mechanism to help fulfill the aim through various academic activities. The ASEAN-China Academic Co-operation and Exchange Programme was proposed in the spirit of furthering more people-to-people contact and exchange between ASEAN and China in the field of higher education. The project was approved under the ASEAN-China Co-operation Fund in March 2001 and then the ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference was successfully organized in June 2002. Both sides agreed to continuously hold the conference so that high-ranking university administrators and decision makers can meet, discuss and initiate deeper co-operation between two regions. The full text of the address appears as **Annex 6**.

8. Prof. Dr. Wang Rong, President of Yunnan University of Finance and Economics extended his gratitude for the participation the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference. He shared the opinions on existing problems and the prospect of higher educational co-operation between ASEAN and China. In addition, he elaborated about the common challenges in higher education between ASEAN and China. Even though there are great differences between two regions such as development scale, educational structure, operating systems, management systems, curricular systems and teaching methods, ASEAN and China are facing the same challenges. One is that the existing higher education does not meet the needs for the current economic development due to the lack of financial support and limited number and quality of faculties in ASEAN and China. In this case, he suggested ASEAN and Chinese universities to enlarge and improve their disciplines, teaching contents and methods. We also should make a common effort for effective use of western educational resources, knowledge and systems to upgrade our own higher education and enhance international competence. The other view was that the education co-operation between ASEAN and China has obviously lagged behind the economic and social development. Then it was necessary for both regions to further strengthen their exchanges and mutual understanding in order to carry out more substantial and bilateral in higher education co-operation. Finally, he pointed out on the goal and choices for the Sino-ASEAN higher education co-operation. ASEAN and China may use the European's successful experiences as a reference in building up the higher education system in the region, such as the credit transfer, the mutual acknowledgement of degrees, the set up special organizations, and the promotion of regional higher education integration and optimizing of human resource allocation. He suggested that "The China-ASEAN 10+1 Higher Education Co-operation Organization" should be set up. The substantial process of mutual credit, diploma and degree acknowledgement should be considered to minimize the differences in the education system among China and ASEAN countries. In order to accelerate the progress, he suggested selecting a working group of appropriate institutions from both sides as the experimental units to work through it. He also proposed that "The China – ASEAN benchmark universities" should be set up under the supports of governments and respective organizations in order to play a core role in co-operative progress and provide sufficient support for mutual educational programmes. Importantly, he suggested setting up the special funds for the Course Development, the Research Project and the China-ASEAN Overseas Students. He finally pointed that improving the mechanism for the student exchange programmes, constructing a common platform for course development and creating an exchange

as well as research platforms are priorities. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Wang Rong appears as **Annex 7**.

9. Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir, Special Assistant to the Secretary-General of ASEAN for Institutional Affairs and Special Duties, began his statement of the importance of the Rectors' Conference, which was as an effort to reinvigorate ASEAN-China co-operation in higher education. He recalled on the commitment to build an ASEAN Community by 2015 on three closely inter-related pillars, namely the ASEAN Security Community, the ASEAN Economic Community and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community. He emphasized the importance of human development in the region, which was embarked on the capacity building activities. The ASEAN leaders had recognized and put their facilitation to the education and the promotion of high standards in education following to the Vientiane Action Programme. He briefly informed the role and responsibilities of the ASEAN University Networks (AUN), which was established in November 1995, through a Charter and Agreement to spearhead regional co-operation activities among ASEAN Member Countries. He also explained about implementing programmes in higher education with the dialogue partners, including China, the European Union, Japan, the Republic of Korea as well as the ASEAN +3 countries. In closing statement, Dr. Azmi expressed his wish for the concrete and practical recommendations from the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference, which would increase the present momentum of current collaboration and also deepen the existing awareness students in both regions. He ended that the ASEAN Secretariat stands ready to provide the assistance to facilitate the mutual desire to enhance future collaboration in higher education between ASEAN and China. The full statement of Dr. Azmi Mat Akhir appears as **Annex 8**.

## **INTRODUCTION SESSION**

10. A video presentation of the Chinese and ASEAN participating universities was presented in alphabetical order. The full video presentation appears as **Annex 9**.
11. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, the AUN Executive Director, gave the presentation of the AUN's roles and responsibilities, current status and activities. The full presentation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul appears as **Annex 10**.
12. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseni, the AUN Deputy Executive Director, delivered the progress report of the ASEAN-China Academic Co-operation and Exchange Programme. She gave the background of the programme, which was approved for the funding under the ASEAN-China Co-operation Fund in 2001. The 1<sup>st</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference was successfully organized at Chulalongkorn University on 14 – 15 June 2002. The conference opened the first chapter of academic co-operation and discussed the possibilities for co-operation on matters of mutual interests. Following to the conference, the ASEAN-China Round Table Meeting was organized by Beijing Foreign Studies University in May 2004. The meeting was focused on ASEAN Studies and Chinese Studies. She also informed the objectives

and the success criteria of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference in 2007 in Hanoi. The full paper of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseneni appears as **Annex 11**.

13. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nantana Gajaseneni, the AUN Deputy Executive Director, summarized results of the survey questionnaires in 16 Chinese universities and 17 ASEAN member universities as follows:
  - **Existing co-operation**: A number of ASEAN and Chinese universities have currently co-operated in their research, exchange and other programmes such as Confucius centre, seminars, workshops, conferences and so on.
  - **Fields of co-operation**: The exchange's programmes focus on architecture, art and humanities, business management, medical & health and science & technology. The research's topics focus on Asian studies, architecture, art and humanities, business administration, medical & health and science & technology.
  - **Problems and Constraints**: Both sides indicated that language barrier, limited funding, lack of understanding of each others are the main problems for the ASEAN-China Co-operation.
  - **Recommendations**: ASEAN universities recommended appointing a focal point for this co-operation, promoting academic exchange programmes and requesting a list of accredited Chinese universities. While Chinese universities suggested establishing "Strategic Partnership", building up ASEAN-China university website and offering Chinese and ASEAN courses by offering research scholarships.
  - **Direction of future ASEAN-China co-operation**: The survey finding indicated that ASEAN universities prioritized to co-operate in the activities of exchange programme on graduate level, joint degree programme, collaborative research, joint research on information networking, training, conference, workshops and study and field visits. Whereas the Chinese universities prioritized to cooperate in the activities of language training, exchange programme, joint research, institutional visits and educational exhibitions, seminars and workshops. Both sides also indicated to continue 4 main activities under the programme, namely the Rectors' conference, Round Table meeting, Joint Research and Training Grants and Distinguished Professors and Lecturers Programme. The full presentation appears as **Annex 12**.
  
14. Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Secretary-General of Commission on Higher Education, Thailand and Chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees, shared the crucial points for enhancing the ASEAN-China co-operation in the future. It was necessary for ASEAN and China to set up "the Policy Dialogue on Higher Education", which should be involved by the ASEAN and Chinese governments as well as their universities in order to set a direction for the collaboration under the programme. To support the policy level, he proposed to establish "the ASEAN-China Co-operative Unit" as the pilot project for the universities in both sides working together with the efficiency target. In addition, the Special Fund or ASEAN-China Endowment fund was proposed to consider under the cost-sharing basis among the related organizations.

## **DICUSSION SESSION: PROMOTING ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAMME**

15. The Session was co-chaired by Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail Haji Duraman, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam, and Prof. Dr. Xiao Xian, Vice-President of Yunnan University.
16. Datuk Rafiah Salim, Vice-Chancellor of University of Malaya (UM), began her presentation by quoting the words of William Fulbright reiterating the importance of the academic exchanges. She highlighted two programmes at UM that foster the ASEAN-China links, namely student exchanges and staff exchanges. At UM, the student exchanges are currently focused on short and medium term exchanges but they have planned to address several modalities to make long term exchanges a success. While the staff exchanges are based on the use of external examiners for their academic programmes which provide them opportunities to benchmark their programmes and courses with the best in other countries. Visiting scholars also play an important role in fostering academic linkages. In this case, she proposed that the AUN Distinguished Scholars Programme could certainly be fruitfully extended in to an ASEAN-China fellowship programme. Specifically, a junior scholar's programme targeting young scholars at the beginning of their academic careers could play a valuable role in ensuring the involvement of various generations of academics in ASEAN-China dialogue in the different academic disciplines. She also introduced two initiatives at UM, which are the Institute of Chinese Studies (ICS) and the Confucius Institute (CI). In her concluding remarks, she suggested to ensure a better fit for the effective academic exchanges, we should work on collaboratively involve in university calendars, grading systems, systems of credits, life-long learning and setting the stage for an "Asia Higher Education Area" (AHEA). The full presentation of Datuk Rafiah Salim appears as **Annex 13**.
17. Dr. Nguyen Trong Do, Dean of International School of Vietnam National University-Hanoi outlined the development history of the International School (IS) and showed the model that they had been using for joint training programmes with foreign partners. He recalled the success of one of the co-operation models with HELP University College (Malaysia) started in 2004. The models are composed of main features: degrees awarded by HELP, teaching in English language, programmes and operating procedures provided by HELP, academic quality and teaching standard controlled by HELP and allowing students to choose different formulas. He also mentioned its advantages, which are flexibility, low costs, continuous contact between school and students' families and overcoming the linguistic barrier. He concluded that the above-mentioned model can be seen as the educational import and export. In this case, Viet Nam's education system could be diversified with improved quality to catch up with regional and international standards. The full presentation of Dr. Nguyen Trong Do appears as **Annex 14**.
18. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pichan Sawangwong, Vice-President of Burapha University (BUU) began his presentation by showing BUU's existing co-operation, which composed of the Government to Government (G2G) and the bilateral co-operation. With China, BUU had involved in many types of the co-operation, including student and staff exchanges, Chinese language programmes, scholarship programmes, collaborative degree programme (2+2, 1+3, 3+1), co-operative researches, and Confucius center. To enhance the closer co-operation, he proposed the mechanisms with the clear objective, specific agreement, regularly follow up and evaluation, accreditation and

the financial commitment. The full presentation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Pichan Sawangwong appears as **Annex 15**.

19. Mr. Li Yansong, Assistant President of Peking University briefly introduced the Peking University (PKU) that it was the first national comprehensive university as well as the supreme administrative organ for education in China. He also mentioned the importance of the international exchange and co-operation strategies at PKU, which established co-operative relations at university level more than 200 higher educational institutions from over 50 countries and regions. He informed that the connection and exchanges between PKU and ASEAN educational institutions had been promoted in recent years and also PKU had obtained great support from the ASEAN embassies and their counterparts in South East Asia, which leads to the tremendous teaching and research achievements recognized by peers from home and abroad. He finally proposed the possible fields with ASEAN universities, including joint scientific research of high level, degree programmes and short-term training in natural sciences, humanities and social sciences. The full presentation of Mr. Li Yansong appears as **Annex 16**.
20. Prof. Chen Yinzhang, Director of Foreign Affairs Office (on behalf of Prof. Qin Shaode, Chancellor of Fudan University) presented his paper on “A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step”. He firstly began with the introduction of Fudan University. He recalled the speech of Mr. Zheng Han, Mayor of Shanghai, emphasizing that Fudan University is the name card of Shanghai. The university has established extensive co-operation relationship with 206 universities and institutes across 30 countries and regions, such as with Yale University, London School of Economics and Political Sciences, Waseda University, National University of Singapore and many other world-class universities. With ASEAN universities, he shared the meeting that the university has various forms of collaboration and also highlighted on the successful activities such as Shanghai Forum, National University of Singapore-Fudan Joint Graduate School and Asia Research Center. For more opportunities and challenges with ASEAN universities in the future, he informed that Fudan University is keen to co-operate in the fields of Public Health, Biodiversity Sciences, Economics, Finance and Management Science in the forms of joint field research, training and conference programme. The full presentation of Prof. Qin Shaode appears as **Annex 17**.
21. Prof. Dr. Zhang Yun, Vice-President of Shandong University began his presentation by introducing the university profile with the facts and figures. He presented that the lack of opportunities for communication with ASEAN universities, the lack of understanding and knowledge of mutual disciplines are the main challenges for enhancing the ASEAN-China Academic co-operation. He also shared the information on the current partners with Singapore and Thailand. Shandong University has collaborated in many types of activities, such as researches, joint educations, conferences, exchanges. For further collaboration, he informed that SDU would strengthen the communication and co-operation of students and faculty with ASEAN universities, promote the co-operation with ASEAN countries on Chinese Language Teaching and Chinese Culture Communication and welcome student from ASEAN countries to study at SDU for long-term and short-term in the ways of joint programme co-operation or joint research. He also recommended that it is

considerable to make use of the research grants of Chinese government and/ or other international research funding. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Zhang Yun appears as **Annex 18**.

22. Prof. Yang Xueyi, Chairman of University Council of Beijing Foreign Studies University started with the introduction of the university by providing the information of its history, students and faculties and fields of studies. Later, he overviewed the BFSU-ASEAN exchange and co-operation and highlighted the successful examples with Thailand, Malaysia, and Brunei Darussalam. He finally proposed the meeting to urge more frequent and regular exchange of students and faculty members, to increase faculties' collaboration between BFSU and ASEAN universities and to explore new co-operative fields of Chinese Studies as well as ASEAN Studies. To deepen the co-operation, he suggested to establish advanced programmes on interpreting and international relations as well as to establish new language programme, especially the Filipino programme. The full presentation of Prof. Yang Xueyi appears as **Annex 19**.

#### **DICUSSION SESSION: SETTING UP RESEARCH CO-OPERATION**

23. The Session was co-chaired by Prof. Dr. Zhang Yue, Vice-President of University of Science and Technology Beijing and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phetsamone Khounsavath, Vice-President of National University of Laos.
24. Prof. Dr. Xu Ningsheng, Vice-President of Sun Yat-Sen University, began with the introduction of the strategic objective. The university is one of the leading universities in China with international influence and run as comprehensive research-oriented university. He pointed out the importance of the international collaboration as well as main practice of the university, including focuses, components in collaboration, parties and partners for collaborations and taking full advantages in various ways. He then shared some suggestions for promoting all-out co-operation of education, culture and technology with ASEAN universities. He proposed to strengthen information exchange between universities, joint programmes for high-level student training, joint research in specific fields and promoted exchange programmes. For further co-operation, both sides should establish partnership so that both sides can discuss ways for sustainable collaboration in various aspects at university level. Under this mentioned proposal, the universities should take advantages of the resources of governments and enterprises. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Wu Ningsheng appears as **Annex 20**.
25. Prof. Dr. Wu Shinong, Vice-President of Xiamen University, began his presentation on "Preparation for Participating to Academic Co-operation with ASEAN Universities" by giving the information of its history, academic strengths, state key laboratories and research, state key research bases in Humanities and Social Sciences and Science and Technology Park. For the international co-operation, Xiamen University has inter-university co-operative ties with over 120 institutions of higher education in the world. He explained about the mechanism of how the university setting up the co-operation. To begin with, high-level visits as initiators would help create bridges and boost relations between universities. The MOU signing would create the framework for a number of substantial programmes, such as faculty and

student exchanges, joint research and academic seminars. In this case, he also highlighted the success of the Institute of Malaysian Studies and Open Laboratory on Life Science, which are focused on the co-research programmes. In addition, seeking common ground and interests as bedrock would need to consider for contributing to economies. Lastly, he pointed that the future co-operation should be practical, feasible, substantial and mutual-beneficial to the economic growth demands. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Wu Shinong appears as **Annex 21**.

26. Prof. Deng Gang, Director of International Co-operation and Dean of School on International Programme, Kunming University of Science and Technology, began the presentation on “Sustainable mechanism for the Regional Higher Education Co-operation” by sharing the general information of KUST and followed by the significance of the regional co-operation. He emphasized on the co-operation under the Greater Mekong Sub-region or GMS, which is viewed as the most dynamic region in Asia and strongly supported by Chinese government. As many Chinese universities generally have a large capacity in terms of the number of degree programmes and R&D levels, they should optimize the orientation towards domestic fields, GMS fields and other international fields of the developed countries. In this relation, he also gave the examples of KUST co-operation with ASEAN partners, especially with GMS universities. For the ASEAN-China future co-operation, he suggested to establish “China-ASEAN HRD Training Base at Kunming” since Kunming is the most location for training due to the geographical and cultural closeness to ASEAN and good relationship of Yunnan institutions with ASEAN universities. He also proposed to call ASEAN partners to co-operate in Joint Master programme in International Finance Management, Training for engineering and technical transfer in industrial fields and Joint research fund application. The full presentation of Prof. Deng Gang appears as **Annex 22**.
27. Prof. Dr. Ir. Djoko Santoso, Rector of Institut Teknologi Bandung (ITB), shared his views by demonstrating the model for the research development co-operation. To make understanding of the university capacity, he started with the general information, history, facts and figures of the university. He elaborated the research groups and centers, supporting to their schools and faculties at ITB. Then he mentioned about identifying opportunities for the industrial cycle and present situation in Indonesia. ITB is playing the role of R&D activities for the industry and also seeking for the university partners to strengthen and develop their R&D. He highlighted some examples of ITB’s R&D products, which have been successful produced in many industrial fields. In 2005, ITB had put over 90% of their budget to the R&D projects co-operating with the government agencies and industries and focused on the Information Communication and Technology (ICT) research project. In his conclusion, he emphasized that the collaboration between university and other institutions should be done extensively for the sustainability in education, research and communication development. The co-operation should be also done based on the need for the university, equal partnership and mutual benefit. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Ir. Djoko Santoso appears as **Annex 23**.
28. Prof. Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman, President of University of Philippines, informed the meeting that the globalization has shifted the mission of higher education from the indigenization to the internationalization. In the part days, most universities were

inward looking and aimed at self-reliance to be stronger national identity. While nowadays, universities would aim at promoting of peace and mutual understanding, revenue-generation and augmentation of national capacity. In this case, the international co-operation in teaching, student exchanges and research would be increased. To set up the research collaboration, she mentioned the method of “the Strategic Alliances”, which could be done in various ways. One is the bilateral agreements, which could be initiated both by the government or university. Another is the collaboration through networks or associations. The ASEAN University Network is one of the good examples. She also mentioned the other examples of the networks that initiated by associations of individuals as well as funding institutions, such as Southeast Asian Regional Exchange Programme (SEASREP), Association of Deans of Graduate Schools of Management (ADSGM) and UNESCO. However, she recalled some considerations in research collaborations, especially the differences among research scholars and government regulatory. To enhance the research collaboration, she recommended that objective must be understood by all once it started and term of reference must be clearly spelled out and mutually agreed upon. The full presentation of Prof. Dr. Emerlinda R. Roman appears as **Annex 24**.

29. Prof. Choy-Heng Lai, Vice-Provost of National University of Singapore started with the NUS Perspective on research collaborations, which composed of strengthening research programmes, broadening research perspectives and seeking complementary strengths and expertise. He then proceeded to highlight some research collaboration with Chinese universities in the projects of internet-based real-time interactive VR visualization of Tang Period Chang’an with particular emphasis on the palace ground, Asian Coalition for Architecture and Urbanism, Globalization of mainland Chinese firms, the NUS-Xiamen University open laboratory for Life Sciences, Research on Bio-Nano and Materials, Asian Law Institute and Beijing-Honh Kong-Singapore Center for Nonlinear Dynamics and Complex Systems. Later, he pointed out main factors for the success of the collaboration. Both sides should firstly share interested in the particular project and then seek for the champions to play a leading role. The good planning, sufficient funding, and regular communicating and exchanging information would significantly support the research collaboration. In addition to the success, he informed that the environment and water, Asian Studies, International Law, Engineering and Science and Technology are their prioritized research areas. The full presentation of Prof. Choy-Heng Lai appears as **Annex 25**.

## **OPENING DISCUSSION**

30. On the second day of the conference, 16 March 2007, the chairpersons were invited to reiterate the crucial points from the discussion sessions of promoting academic exchange programme and setting up research co-operation.
31. Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail Haji Duraman, Vice-Chancellor of Universiti Brunei Darussalam reported that the meeting mainly discussed on the future ASEAN-China activities and came up with the future action plans as follows:
  - Tasking the AUN to act as a ASEAN focal point and also request to closely co-ordinate with the Chinese Ministry of Education, referred as Chinese focal point, in exploring the opportunity for the future academic co-operation;

- Agreeing that the AUN will prepare a proposal and submit to the ASEAN Education Ministerial Meeting;
  - Agreeing to make use of the AUN website to be as a mechanism of communication between two regions. Scholarships offered at ASEAN and Chinese universities shall be posted on the AUN website;
  - Agreeing to set up a Task Force to study the possibility of uniform academic systems i.e. academic calendar, credit system, credit transfer, etc. between two regions;
  - Agreeing to establish the center on ASEAN language and culture or the center on ASEAN Studies in China to enhance relationship and understanding among the two sides;
  - Proposing the AUN to organize regular “Professors Meeting” and/ or “Students meeting” to gather professors/ students who share same interests or knowledge so that relationship between both sides can be sustained.
32. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phetsamone Khounsavath, Vice-President of National University of Laos reported that the Meeting mainly discussed on the direction of the collaborative research between ASEAN and China. The Meeting also took notes of the success of the presented joint research programmes, initiated by the joint effort of ASEAN countries and their dialogue partners. The Meeting totally agreed that the financial resource is the most important factor for ensuring the efficiency of the research collaboration. To seek the funding, both sides proposed to further discuss on the areas of their priority interests to come up with the proposal that it could seek the seed funding from the ASEAN-China Co-operation Fund by submitting through the ASEAN Secretariat. To solidify the collaboration, ASEAN universities proposed to start with the most common agendas, which are the urgent concerns and/ or direct impacts to the region such as Bird Flu, SARS, environmental pollution, etc since these areas would encourage both sides to share their same concerns in conducting the research in specific fields. Then agreement or MOU signing may later take into account as the next step of in dept research collaboration.
33. In response to the aforesaid reports, Prof. Dr. Ir. Djoko Santoso suggested on organizing separate sessions for the specific fields of the research co-operation. He also emphasized that the joint proposal between ASEAN and China should be submitted for financial support from the ASEAN-China Co-operation Fund.
34. Datuk Rafiah Salim shared the Meeting that this conference should come up with the concrete action plan so that both sides could further implement at the same directions. Datuk Rafiah also announced the offer of 3-4 young fellowships in the field of Sciences to Chinese students to continue their Ph.Ds at University of Malaya.
35. Prof. Dr. Luo Xiaosuo, President of Yunnan Normal University kindly provided information about the current educational policy in Yunnan Province. The Yunnan government currently provides scholarships to international students not only for the university level, but also for the school level. He finally encouraged ASEAN universities to increase the number of exchange co-operation with universities in Yunnan Province.

36. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Huynh Thanh Dat, Vice-President of Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh, kindly introduced the university to the Meeting and suggested to be more opened the bilateral relations among ASEAN and Chinese universities.
37. In addition, ASEAN universities proposed to identify a substantial research project on emerging issue that directly and importantly impacted to both China and ASEAN Countries. One possible topic could be the public health.
38. After the open discussion for all participants, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, the AUN Executive Director, delivered a presentation of the proposed future framework for the ASEAN-China Academic Co-operation and Exchange Programme. Firstly, he gave the board picture of the programmes, which stated the objective, expected areas and activities. Later, proposed activities under the programme including ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference, Survey and Round Table Meeting, Joint Research Grants, Joint Distinguished Professors and Lecturers, Student Exchange and others were elaborated. In addition to these, time schedule, programme organizers, outputs and financial support were also proposed. The full presentation of Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul, the AUN Executive Director appears as **Annex 26**
39. In regard of the proposed framework, the Conference agreed to enhance their co-operation in the fields of language, culture, law, trade and business, engineering science, architecture and urban planning, environmental protection, mineral resources, maritime science and logistics, art and crafts, agricultural sciences, natural sciences, medicine and public health. In addition, both sides agreed in principle to intensify the co-operation towards the activities include (1) ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference, (2) Survey and Round Table Meeting, (3) Joint Research and Training Grants, (4) Joint Distinguished Professors and Lecturers Programme, (5) Student Exchange Programme, (6) Others activities for youths and young leaders, (7) Establishment of the ASEAN-China university website.
40. In response to the proposed framework, the leaders of 15 ASEAN universities and 16 Chinese universities, and the representatives of ASEAN University Network, ASEAN Secretariat and the Ministry of Education of P.R. China agreed to sign an official Memorandum of Understanding on ASEAN-China Academic Co-operation and Exchanged Programme toward an enhanced academic partnership. In this regard, Dato Paduka Dr. Haji Ismail Haji Duraman, on behalf of the AUN Member Universities and Prof. Yang Xueyi, on behalf of the Chinese universities officially signed the MOU at the conference. The MOU appears as **Annex 27**
41. The Meeting took note the announcement from the ASEAN University Network that Yunnan University will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Round Table Meeting in 2008 and University of Malaya will host the 3<sup>rd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference in 2009.
42. Immediately before the concluding session, Mr. Cao Guoxing, Director-General, Department of International Co-operation and Exchange, Ministry of Education of PRC, extended his congratulation to the grand success of the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN-China Rectors' Conference. He finally proposed to set up "China-AUN Scholarship" and announced to provide 20 Chinese government scholarships to graduate students from ASEAN countries to pursue high level degree studies as the initiative step.

The detailed arrangement and management for this mentioned programme will be responsible by the China Scholarship Council (CSC). The full text of the address appears as **Annex 28**.

## **CONCLUDING SESSION**

43. Dr. Krissanapong Kirtikara, Secretary-General of Commission on Higher Education, Thailand and Chairman of the AUN Board of Trustees, expressed sincere thanks and gratitude to Vietnam National University-Hanoi for kindly co-hosted the event, to Ministry of Education of the People's Republic of China for kindly funded the event, and to all distinguished rectors, vice-chancellors, presidents and representatives from ASEAN and Chinese universities for the valuable contribution and competent tasks performed throughout the entire period of this conference. He also expressed his strong belief that, with the contribution of our friends gathering in this conference, the ASEAN-China Academic Co-operation would become the most informative and functional sources for the on-going efforts to strengthen the co-operation between our two parties and also envisaged the establishment of an intangible network among ASEAN and Chinese universities. The full text of the address appears as **Annex 29**.
  
44. The Meeting had held in the traditional spirit of ASEAN-China cordiality and solidarity.

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