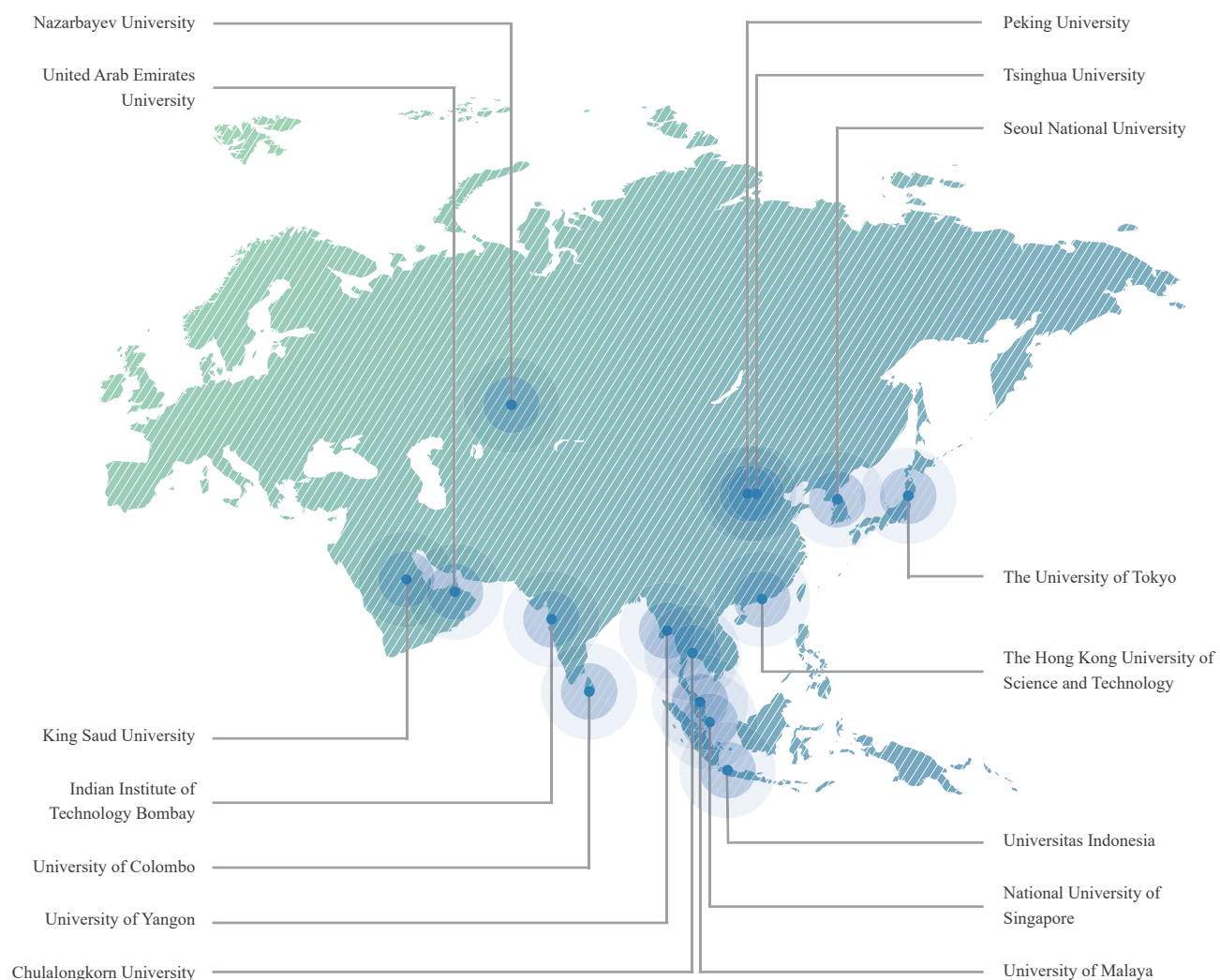


ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE REPORT 2017-2019

AUA MEMBERS



AUA IMPACT

15
AUA Members

29
AUA Scholars

5
Conferences
(Academic & Administrative)

12
Exchange
Staff

10
Student Mobility
Programs

283
Participants in Student
Mobility Programs



A MESSAGE FROM THE AUA PRESIDENT

As we approach the second anniversary of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), it is my great honor to present the inaugural AUA Report. This report spans from the founding of AUA in April 2017 to the end of March 2019. I would like to convey my appreciation to all who have contributed to the development of AUA over the preceding two years. Though still a budding organization, AUA has already made a significant impact on Asian higher education.

In April 2016, Tsinghua University proposed to establish AUA. One year later, on 29 April 2017, AUA was officially launched at Tsinghua University in China, marking the beginning of a new era of Asian higher education.

The 15 founding members have come together to form a close partnership with a mission to jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development by way of strengthening collaboration among member institutions.

As this report relays, AUA has achieved many significant milestones since its inception, providing opportunities for extensive cross cultural academic exchanges through the mobility of students, scholars and staff. So far, 10 programs facilitating mobility for over 280 students have been hosted by AUA members. Through key AUA themes of Information Technology, Resources & Environment and Public Health, students engaged with diverse subjects, ranging from environmental protection and sustainable development to innovation and entrepreneurship, working with peers from other Asian countries to address the world's shared challenges. In 2018, the AUA Scholars Award and AUA Staff Exchange Program were launched to promote the exchange of researchers, faculty and staff among AUA members, facilitating cross-cultural collaboration and immersion in the working and research environments of other AUA member institutions.

In promoting research collaboration, AUA member universities launched various high level initiatives. The AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum on Artificial Intelligence, which took place at Tsinghua University in October 2018, fostered research collaboration and networks among students from all 15 AUA member universities. At the end of 2018, the UAEU-AUA Joint Research Program was initiated, which supports six joint research projects between the United Arab Emirates University and four other AUA member universities. The University of Yangon successfully hosted an academic conference on water resources, bringing together academics and researchers to discuss solutions for environmental sustainability. The first AUA Library Directors Dialogue took place in November 2018 at Tsinghua University, establishing collaboration between AUA member libraries through the document delivery service, which provides a platform for sharing library resources and promotes regional and cultural exchange and cooperation among AUA members.

In April 2018, the second annual AUA Summit took place in Hainan Province, China. The AUA Presidents Forum 2018 took place in the form of a roundtable discussion titled 'The Rise of Asian Universities' at the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) 2018 Annual Conference. A key message of openness, conveyed by the AUA Joint Statement in 2017, was reinforced by the presidents at the BFA

Annual Conference. Embracing the trend of openness in higher education, AUA supports members to achieve their institutional goals, to provide students and faculty with top resources and a platform upon which they can innovate and invigorate emerging technologies, and to educate future leaders who are adaptable and responsive to the needs of rapidly changing societies.

In November 2018, the first *Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)* was published as a report, providing a broader perspective on the status of Asian higher education by analysing the strengths and contributions to higher education made by each AUA member. *AHEO 2019* will focus on innovation of higher education and will include greater contributions from all member institutions.

The rise of higher education in Asia is both a result of, and fueled by, the growth of populations, dynamic economies, innovative entrepreneurship and the remarkable social progress of the region. The global challenges we face in higher education and society at large are great and cannot be tackled alone. In today's world, working in solidarity with one another to harness the potential of technological and innovative advancements in education is essential for the achievement of AUA members' individual and shared goals. As we move forward in a spirit of unity to face current and oncoming challenges, we must continue to draw upon our shared Asian heritage and unique systems of education and learning to conduct our higher education institutions in an environment of openness, cohesiveness and perseverance. With distinct Asian characteristics and a combined passion and effort, we will advance our proficiency and output in academic research and contribute unique educational ideas to the global higher education community. AUA will continue to manifest itself as a beacon of inspiration for higher education sectors and institutions, not only in Asia, but worldwide.

Let us integrate Asian wisdom and shape a better future.

Prof. **QIU Yong**
AUA President
President, Tsinghua University

A MESSAGE FROM THE AUA EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT 2018-2019



As the AUA Executive President 2018-2019, it is more than a pleasure for me to have an opportunity to extend my message here, to remind us about our hard work as an association since 2017 until 2019. It's been two years and we maintained such a good relationship under the Asian Universities Alliance. We have done many substantial projects since initial launch of our association, such as successfully holding the AUA Summits and AUA Executives Meetings, the AUA Youth Forums which brought strong themes to our students, the AUA Scholars

Award, and so many international mobilities across Asia. I, myself, even attended an external event titled the Times Higher Education World Academic Summit in 2018 and gave a speech as Executive President of AUA. We were also involved in the prestigious Boao Forum for Asia in China in 2018. I see this relationship among prominent universities across Asia as a good signal that we are not keeping our hand still in terms of discovering what we can do to constantly create progress in academia, across Asia and the world.

Regarding higher education in Asia, I think we made some good steps towards knowledge development through our many brilliant programs over these past two years. Two years of coordinating very tight agendas of fifteen member universities is indeed not easy, but that also proved that we have great potential and are able to set our main mode as an association that focuses on real impact. So for that, I would like to extend my gratitude for the opportunity to share our views and experience on higher education management in Asia and growing up together as an institution. At this point, we know that our perspectives will be taken into account and I really hope that fact leads us to actively take part in all important matters concerning higher education for several years ahead.

The hard work has now been captured in a harmonious report, recording all the things that happened since our very first year as an association. This is work that has been done by so many people and I believe each of us is determined to perform our best. So for that, allow me to invite you to open all the pages of this Annual Report to know how greatness is being made in every single word that is written.

Again, please accept my gratitude to be part of this association and let us continue to cherish our collaboration.

Prof. Dr. Ir. **Muhammad Anis, M.Met**
AUA Executive President 2018-2019
Rector, Universitas Indonesia

A MESSAGE FROM THE AUA EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT 2017-2018



From AUA's inauguration in 2017 until now, member universities have taken turns in organizing programs, guided by four aspects set by the AUA Board—managing student, scholar and faculty mobility; promoting research collaboration; setting strategy and policy; and publishing the *Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)*. Almost all the activities approved by the AUA Board have been completed and achieved their defined goals, with more to be launched in 2019.

In this digital age, when innovation and IT systems have become ingrained in nearly all aspects of modern life - including education - institutions of higher learning can no longer administer education solely in the traditional way. AUA has thus supported its member universities to use innovation and IT systems to produce quality education which best serves the needs of students and responds to the demands of a rapidly changing world. This can be illustrated by the inaugural issue of *AHEO*, which focuses on the role of innovation in student/faculty mobility, student/faculty recruitment and development, executing online and mobile learning, redesigning learning assessment and learning spaces, as well as social engagement. Undeniably, innovation education has

many challenges to face but I am confident that AUA's collaboration and teamwork will enable us to overcome any barriers so we can move forward for the benefit of all our members as well as for academic institutions outside our network.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all member universities for their cooperation and offer my appreciation to my successor, Prof. Ir. Muhammad Anis, Rector of Universitas Indonesia, who served as AUA Executive President from 2018 to 2019. Last but not least, I wish the University of Colombo success as AUA Executive Presidency 2019 to 2020.

Prof. **Bundhit Eua-arporn**
AUA Executive President 2017-2018
President, Chulalongkorn University

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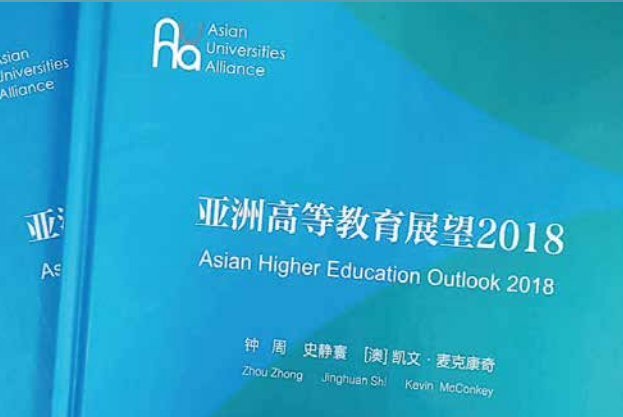
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Part

Introduction to AUA



AUA MISSION

“

AUA will jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions.

”

AUA JOINT STATEMENT

JOINT STATEMENT FROM THE FOUNDING UNIVERSITIES OF ASIAN UNIVERSITIES ALLIANCE

29 April 2017

We, the leaders of the undermentioned fifteen Asian universities, assembled at Tsinghua University on the 29th of April 2017, hereby declare the establishment of the Asian Universities Alliance, to be acknowledged as AUA.

We are united, in the spirit of the AUA Constitution, to jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions.

We believe that higher education will play an increasingly important role in future Asian societies and that economic globalization has made openness the trend of higher education. AUA will embrace that trend by building closer ties both among member universities and with universities outside AUA. Together, we will play a more significant role in world higher education.

On this historic occasion of the establishment of AUA, we agree to support each member to better achieve its institutional goals, to become more competitive in Asia and in the world, and to become more responsive to calls of our communities. To achieve that, AUA will:

1. Promote mobility of students, scholars and staff among all members;
2. Strengthen research collaboration and joint innovation;

3. Establish high-level dialogues and forums to discuss higher education strategies and policies;
4. Compile and publish annual reports on Asian higher education.

We, the leaders of the AUA founding institutions, will ensure that the agenda, approved by the AUA Board Meeting 2017, will be implemented, so as to turn today's expectations into tomorrow's outcomes.

Issued by

Chulalongkorn University
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
King Saud University
National University of Singapore
Nazarbayev University
Peking University

Seoul National University
Tsinghua University
United Arab Emirates University
Universitas Indonesia
University of Colombo
University of Malaya
The University of Tokyo
University of Yangon

FOUNDING OF AUA

Tsinghua University proposed to establish an alliance of Asian universities in March 2016. In September of that year, prospective members convened in Beijing to discuss the formulation of the Constitution and Framework of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA). On 29 April 2017 AUA was officially launched at Tsinghua University, marking the beginning of a new era of Asian higher education.

The first AUA Board Meeting (AUABM) was held on 28 April 2017. During this meeting, Tsinghua University was elected to hold the AUA Presidency for the period 2017-2020, with President of Tsinghua University, QIU Yong, elected as first AUA President. During the first AUABM, the founding members released the AUA Joint Statement, which defined their united effort to address regional and global challenges specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development. The Board also formally approved the AUA Framework and designated the three themes for 2017-2020 as public health, resources & environment, and information technology. Each theme is a major global challenge that AUA aims to address through collaborative efforts.



March 2016

Tsinghua University proposed to establish an alliance of Asian universities in March 2016



9 September 2016

Asian Universities Alliance preparatory meeting was held in Beijing, China



29 April 2017

Asian Universities Alliance was officially founded by 15 member universities

AUA LAUNCH CEREMONY

29 April 2017 marked the official launch of AUA at Tsinghua University. Leaders and senior representatives from all 15 member universities convened in Beijing for the ceremony. In her address, the event’s keynote speaker Chinese Vice Premier LIU Yandong, emphasized the significant role that AUA will play in the development of Asian higher education. She highlighted AUA’s position as a platform to facilitate and strengthen joint research collaboration and to increase multilateral cooperation between universities, governments and industries.

Adhering to the importance of globalization, Madam Liu supported AUA’s capability to enhance cultural exchanges and mutual understanding between people of diverse backgrounds. As a final note, Madam Liu stated that AUA and its member universities would contribute unique Asian wisdom to solving regional and global challenges. “As a cradle of talent and a sanctuary of knowledge, institutes of higher education are sources for social development and human progress”, said Madam Liu.



As a cradle of talent and a sanctuary of knowledge, institutes of higher education are sources for social development and human progress.



LIU Yandong
Chinese Vice Premier



AUA BOARD MEMBERS



Former AUA Board Members



AUA FRAMEWORK 2017-2020

As endorsed at the first AUA Board Meeting in April 2017, the three themes of AUA activities for 2017-2020 are:

1. Public Health
2. Resources & Environment
3. Information Technology

The four modules are:

1. Mobility (Students, Scholars, Staff)
2. Research Collaboration
3. Strategy & Policy
4. Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)

All AUA programs and activities fall within these four modules, and address a particular aspect of the three themes.



Public Health

We have learnt from past experience of fighting diseases and epidemics that public health challenges are no longer only a problem of medical technology. They are also linked to resource allocation and social resilience. They involve educational, economic, political, social, environmental and cultural issues. They are not only local or regional, but also global. AUA wishes to encourage multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to public health research. AUA will also promote the exchange of ideas and people of this area among the AUA institutions.

Resources & Environment

The approaches of AUA to address this challenge will be both educational and research oriented. AUA will send students to have a closer look at the world that is in deep crisis of resource depletion and environmental disruption. Students are expected to understand the severity of this challenge and learn how to play an active part in conserving the environment. AUA shall also support research that provides innovative solutions to current problems related to resources and environment. The collaboration between industry, government, and academia is also encouraged by AUA.

Information Technology

Asian universities are playing an increasingly significant part in producing the most innovative information technology. The blooming of the IT industry also hastens the development of innovation and entrepreneurship education in Asian universities. AUA will put an emphasis on information technology research to be at the forefront of technological trends. AUA will also encourage education, and exchange of educational ideas, on innovation and entrepreneurship. At the same time, AUA shall not hesitate in the face of disruption brought by information technology.

Part

Mobility



AUA members are deeply committed to enhancing the mobility of people between partner institutions. AUA will serve as a platform to allow more frequent and constructive exchange among its members. Through increased mobility, we can more easily share our educational resources with one another. Mobility is also the prerequisite of many other forms of collaboration. Through various programs, AUA fulfills its primary function as a tie to connect member universities. AUA provides opportunities for mobility among member institutions in the way of Student Mobility Programs, the AUA Scholars Award, and the AUA Staff Exchange Program.

STUDENT MOBILITY PROGRAMS

The categories of programs that promote the mobility of students are:

1. AUA Youth Forum
2. Asia Deep Dive Program
3. Overseas Study Programs
4. Arts and Sports Events

AUA Student Mobility Programs (by March 2019)

	Date	Program	Host University
2017	25-29 April	AUA Youth Innovation Workshop	Tsinghua University
	30 July – 12 August	Students Week: Sustainable Development	Universitas Indonesia
	13-17 November	AUA Youth Forum 2017: Empowering Youth Towards Sustainability	Chulalongkorn University
	22-26 November	Experiencing the 2018 Winter Olympics Games Site at PyeongChang	Seoul National University
2018	3-17 July	Asia Deep Dive Program 2018: Exploring Kazakhstan – The Heart of Central Asia	Nazarbayev University
	8-21 July	Students Update: Life Below Water	Universitas Indonesia
	29 July – 9 August	Mega City Environments and Resource Management	Chulalongkorn University
	5-12 August	AUA-UM Tropical Camp	University of Malaya
	13-16 November	AUA Youth Forum 2018: Healthy Oceans	Universitas Indonesia
2019	5-13 January	Challenge for Innovation	United Arab Emirates University

AUA Youth Innovation Workshop at Tsinghua University

Dr. FU Zhiyong of THU delivering a lecture titled ‘Introduction to Design Thinking’



Students at the design thinking workshop



Students taking part in an interactive paper cutting workshop during the field work on cultural protection



Students during the visualization and prototyping training



Education Equity, No Poverty, Environmental Challenges, Cultural Protection, Urban Regeneration.

The first AUA activity was a student mobility program - the AUA Youth Innovation Workshop, held in Beijing, China from 25-29 April 2017. Hosted by Tsinghua University (THU), students from AUA member universities convened in Beijing for the five-day program which was held concurrently with the AUA Launch Ceremony and the first AUA Summit. Working collaboratively, AUA students formulated innovative strategies to design and

build a sustainable future for Asia. Through a series of combined lectures and field work, participants learned design thinking and practices to create and prototype their unique ideas. For young innovators and future leaders, the workshop served not only as a learning platform with interdisciplinary teamwork, but also as a multicultural environment for students to celebrate their diversity, values and culture. In line with the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the themes of the workshop were: Education Equity, No Poverty, Environmental Challenges, Cultural Protection and Urban Regeneration.

AUA Higher Education Exhibition

On the final day of the program, student representatives took part in the AUA Higher Education Exhibition which was also held at Tsinghua University. Students represented and introduced the unique aspects and achievements of their respective universities to attendees of the AUA Launch Ceremony.



Chinese Vice Premier
LIU Yandong meeting
with students from The
University of Tokyo



President Shigeo Katsu (far right) and Provost
Ilesanmi Adesida (second from left) of Nazarbayev
University with students at the Higher Education
Exhibition



Group photo of AUA Youth Innovation Workshop participants before the Higher Education Exhibition



Students representing their universities at the
Higher Education Exhibition

AUA Youth Forum

AUA Youth Forum (AUAYF) is a flagship program organized and hosted annually by the Executive Presidency, concurrently with the AUA Executives Meeting. In line with the mission of AUA, the AUAYF is dedicated to addressing developmental issues in the Asian region, enhancing youth empowerment, and promoting cultural and academic exchanges among the AUA students. It aims to promote a vision of sustainability, innovativeness and collaboration through joint activities in a way that encourages the collective sharing of knowledge and the founding of multinational friendships. Each AUAYF focuses on a specific topic and theme drawn from the AUA Framework.

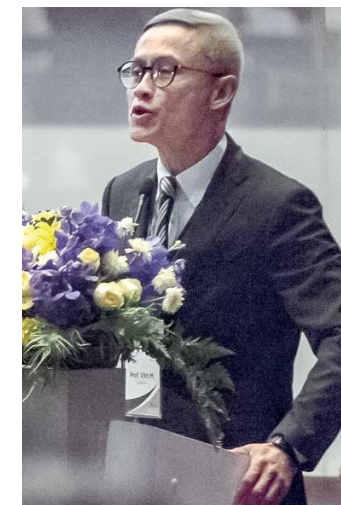
AUA Youth Forum 2017 at Chulalongkorn University

Empowering Youth Towards Sustainability: People, Planet, Prosperity

The first AUAYF was hosted by AUA Executive Presidency 2017-2018 Chulalongkorn University (CU), from 13-17 November 2017 in Bangkok, Thailand. Inspiring and empowering young people to build a sustainable future, the inaugural AUAYF explored the three cornerstones of a sustainable society: 'People, Planet and Prosperity'. Through a series of academic lectures and breakout sessions, as well as field trips and tours, delegates participated in fruitful dialogues on these relevant topics, engaging in hands-on experience and designing their own unique and innovative solutions to address global challenges. A key outcome of the forum was identifying the role of youth in achieving the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

40
STUDENTS

14
UNIVERSITIES



Prof. Vitit Muntarbhorn from CU delivering a
keynote speech titled 'Sustainable Development
and the Power of Youth'



Participants before a panel session titled 'SDGs and SEPs at a Glance'



Ms. Salakjit
Munthamraksa of
the Mae Fah Luang
Foundation under
Royal Patronage giving
a lecture titled 'Doi
Tung: Sustainable
Community
Betterment'



Dr. Rutjawate Taharnklaew delivering a lecture
titled 'Sustainable Prosperity: Better Businesses
for a Better World'



“The whole event was interesting and enjoyable. The timing of different sessions was well managed. I really enjoyed this event.”



“Had so much fun during these events especially the field trip to Sampran. Thanks so much to the team.”



“I truly enjoyed myself and was pleased by the hospitality given to us. Thank you!”



“The best thing was interacting with people of different backgrounds. This showed multiple perspectives towards solving the same problem. The presentations were helpful in multiple ways.”

Pictured: AUAYF participants on a field trip to Sampran Riverside Resort

AUA Youth Forum 2018 in Bali, Indonesia

Healthy Oceans

The second AUAYF took place from 13-16 November 2018 in Bali, Indonesia, alongside the AUA Executives Meeting 2018. Organized by AUA Executive Presidency 2018-2019, Universitas Indonesia, the theme of the 2018 forum was ‘Healthy Oceans’. Student delegations from 14 AUA member universities partook in the four-day event. Special guest lectures were delivered by experts in the field of marine biology and conservation. The students embarked on field trips for beach cleaning to learn about the importance of eco-tourism. They also took part in interactive workshops learning to make their own reusable and eco-friendly bags. Working closely in groups, participants brainstormed and formulated solutions to address the issue of marine pollution. After presenting their findings and solutions to delegates of the AUA Executives Meeting on the final day of the forum, participants received direct feedback on their presentations from the AUA Executives.

41
STUDENTS

14
UNIVERSITIES



Participants of the AUAYF 2018 with staff and professors from Universitas Indonesia



Achariya Yuenyong from Chulalongkorn University was selected as the best student at the AUAYF 2018



Students worked together in teams to discover solutions for marine pollution



Students taking part in beach cleaning activities during the AUAYF 2018



Students wearing their countries' traditional attire at the welcome dinner

"In each session, we had an opportunity to talk and share our ideas with friends and lecturers. For me, I think it was a precious time to talk to them because what they have taught us cannot be found in a textbook. It is one of the greatest experiences that cannot be found in the classroom.

Being a trash hero was fun. We picked up all the plastic and harmful things that can destroy the beautiful ocean. I believe that from now on, at least the AUA participants, will help reduce this problem and this action will inspire other people around them. In the 'Bye Bye Plastic Bag' session we made our own bags from old T-shirts which is eco-friendly and free. At this time I promised myself not to use plastic bags anymore!

This was my first time working with people from different countries and it went awesome. We exchanged our opinions and knowledge. We learnt to be open-minded. Every group did amazing in front of the executive members.

Thank you once again for everything and last but not least 'Once AUA, Always AUA!'"

Achariya Yuenyong
Chulalongkorn University



Students taking part in the Bye Bye Plastic Bag Workshop





ADDP participants at the opening ceremony of the program

Asia Deep Dive Program

The Asia Deep Dive Program (ADDP) provides opportunities for students to have an immersive cultural experience in the country of an AUA member university. The annual program is held for a duration of 2 weeks and aims to deepen students' understanding of Asia's various cultures and societies in order to improve communication and foster deeper cross cultural understanding and cooperation. This program also strives to broaden the minds of students and support them to become global minded citizens.

24
STUDENTS

13
UNIVERSITIES

Asia Deep Dive Program 2018 at Nazarbayev University

Exploring Kazakhstan - The Heart of Central Asia

Hosted by Nazarbayev University, the first Asia Deep Dive Program took place from 3-17 July 2018. Organized around two central AUA themes, the program explored topics on Information Technology and Public Health. Participants were divided into teams to work collaboratively on projects related to the themes of the program. Attending lectures, visiting museums and going on field trips to some of Kazakhstan's picturesque sites in major cities – Astana and Shymkent, as well as the historical city of Turkestan on the ancient Silk Road, were just some of the major highlights of the two week program.

Kazakh culture and language

Immersing themselves fully in the society of Kazakhstan and Central Asia, students learned about the history, language, traditions and contemporary socio-economic developments of the region. They were taught about Kazakhstan's relations with other Asian countries, geographical strategic location, and economic achievements.

Modern Kazakhstan

Guest speakers from a wide range of professions were invited to deliver lectures about the development and growth of modern Kazakhstan. Topics included the economy, education sector and health services, giving a holistic understanding of the country's policies and vision. Students also learned about the country's state programs on digitalization and modernization of public consciousness.

Sightseeing in Astana

Participants explored the capital of Kazakhstan, a city of not only great historical significance, but equally of rapid modern transformation. Astana boasts the heritage of Kazakhstan and Central Asia with monuments and museums filled with treasures of the past. There are bountiful parks and various summer festivals bringing a unique flavor to this contemporary city.

Exploring the history of the ancient Silk Road

Delegates explored Turkestan, the cherished jewel of the Silk Road and one of the most ancient cities in Central Asia. They also visited Khoja Ahmed Yasawi mausoleum, an unsurpassed masterpiece of medieval architecture dating back to the 14th century. These historical sites serve as a strong reminder of Asia's diversity, historical richness and shared past of the ancient Silk Road.

Witnessing geographical diversity of Kazakhstan

Taking overnight trains, field trips and revisiting old historical sites amidst modern cities allowed students to observe Kazakhstan's rich natural diversity. From vast steppes, high mountains, green atlas of forests down to distant lakes, Kazakhstan has some of the world's most breathtaking scenes to offer.



ADDP participants at Khoja Ahmed Yasawi Mausoleum in Turkestan



ADDP participants in their countries' traditional dress



Participants in Panfilov Park, Almaty during ADDP



“

The effort and valuable time that the NU students spent preparing and carrying out the program showed me the genuine hospitality of the Kazakh nation.

”

Bryan Leong
National University of Singapore



“

I could never describe in words how happy I was during the program. The bright minds and ideas of the speakers and the participants inspired me so much.

”

Tint Tel May
University of Yangon



“

I met a lot of young people like me who believed that youth is the major driver of social change. We had truly engaging and inspiring discussions which stimulated doing something to change the world.

”

Praveena Selvam
University of Malaya

Overseas Study Programs

The Overseas Study Programs focus on a particular aspect of academia, in line with the AUA themes. These programs provide opportunities for students of shared academic interests to attend an intensive short-term course in a specific discipline. The Overseas Study Programs aim to broaden students' knowledge and help them gain valuable insights through the exchange of ideas with peers and professors of different countries.

“I thoroughly enjoyed the program. I made some really good friends and came home with new insights about environmental problems. I am grateful to AUA and CU for this opportunity and look forward to visiting Thailand again someday.”

MERM participant
(university unknown)

“Thank you for organizing this wonderful exchange ‘Students Week’ program. We enjoyed it and learned a lot. I hope to join future programs conducted by AUA, as well as UI. I feel really privileged to be here. Thank you to UI’s International Office and AUA.”

Students Week participant from
University of Colombo

“This professional business course gave us a new understanding of entrepreneurship. It was exciting to explore new ways and models with our partners from morning to night every day.”

Challenge for Innovation participant from Tsinghua University

“The best part of the lectures was having sufficient time for Q&A. I could solve my own curiosity but also I was able to listen to other friends’ questions and realize new perceptions that I failed to notice. Learning traditional instruments and dance was entertaining and helped me pay more attention to the country Indonesia itself.”

Life Below Water participant from Seoul National University

“This 10-day field exercise program was one of the most rewarding experiences in my academic career because we were able to meet experts from different fields of engineering, discussed current environmental challenges developing countries are facing today, and shared our ideas to manage major environmental problems.”

MERM participant
(university unknown)

“The program met my expectation of obtaining first-hand experience about contemporary issues and putting both my knowledge and skills into action. Through the skills and experiences gained from this program, I have a strong desire to go an extra mile to help people realize the need to preserve life below water by sharing my knowledge.”

Life Below Water participant from National University of Singapore



Participants taking a group photo at Universitas Indonesia's campus



Participants visiting Universitas Indonesia's Faculty of Humanities to take part in a workshop learning to play arumba - a traditional Indonesian musical instrument



Participants visiting the Maritime Museum and Syahbandar Tower in Jakarta

Students Week at Universitas Indonesia

Sustainable Development: A Multidisciplinary Approach

The first AUA Students Week, titled 'Sustainable Development: A Multidisciplinary Approach' was held at Universitas Indonesia from 30 July-12 August 2017. 31 students from 10 universities took part in the program. Students learned about sustainable development and strengthened cross cultural connectivity through workshops and lectures delivered by distinguished professors from various fields of sustainable development. Participants also had the opportunity to go on field trips, including a visit to a community health center where they got a first-hand glimpse of the Indonesian public health system. Students also attended language and culture classes to further enhance their learning of Indonesian traditions and their way of life. AUA students engaged in a multicultural learning experience and increased their awareness and understanding of important global issues.

31
STUDENTS

10
UNIVERSITIES



Students during a lecture titled 'Health of the Marine Ecosystem'

Students during the Life Below Water opening lecture titled 'Marine Living Resources'

Students Update at Universitas Indonesia

Life Below Water

On 8-21 July 2018, Universitas Indonesia successfully hosted the AUA Students Update 2018 titled 'Life Below Water', a two-week academic and cultural program for students of AUA member institutions. The goal of this program was to encourage participants to broaden their knowledge and awareness on the importance of life below water - a global issue and shared challenge faced by all societies.

Students attended interactive lectures taught by experts from Universitas Indonesia, covering seven sub-topics of Marine Bio Diversity, Marine Environmental Protection, Marine Law, Marine Health Protection, Ocean and Coastal Communities, Marine Economics, and Maritime Resources. Deepening their knowledge on these topics, participants also visited some relevant institutions such as the World Wildlife Foundation-Indonesia, Task Force 115, and the Sea-World aquarium.

To introduce and provide a better understanding of Indonesian culture, participants attended classes to learn the Indonesian language. Students also learned a traditional dance and how to make batik, a technique of wax resisting dyeing applied to whole cloth.

13
STUDENTS

7
UNIVERSITIES



Students learning to make batik. Batik is a technique of wax-resist dyeing applied to whole cloth



Students on a cultural tour to the Taman Mini Indonesia Park



Students learning traditional Thai dance

Mega City Environments & Resource Management at Chulalongkorn University

Public Awareness of and Solutions to Environmental Problems in Developing Countries: Air Pollution in Bangkok

From 29 July-9 August 2018, Chulalongkorn University hosted an AUA Overseas Study Program Mega City Environments & Resource Management (MERM) themed 'Public Awareness of and Solutions to Environmental Problems in Developing Countries: Air Pollution in Bangkok'. 11 students from 8 AUA member universities took part in the 10-day program.

The topic of air pollution was chosen for this program to focus on its impact on human health and the environment. In rising economies, the rapid growth of mega cities combined with the massive population increase results in severely polluted environments in large urban centers. In many regions, the number of people living in slums is on the rise, requiring an urgent response to improve sanitation and waste collection facilities. A multi-lateral level approach is necessary to provide solutions to these pressing problems,

11
STUDENTS

8
UNIVERSITIES



Students on a field trip to the Gulf Power Plant



MERM participants after receiving their certificates of completion



A student team working together during MERM

requiring collaboration from urban planning agencies, water and sewerage management, social services and air pollution control departments. Thailand is currently facing the aforementioned challenges. The Thai government has in recent years implemented numerous policies and initiatives to upgrade the infrastructure and environment on a national level. Meanwhile, the government also hopes to secure sufficient resources for the capital Bangkok and provide inhabitants with an improved standard of living.

Working together in groups, MERM participants identified a specific air pollution problem in Bangkok, formed their own hypotheses and conducted field study and surveys - the results of which were culminated together in final presentations that proposed to encourage public participation in reducing air pollution. Students attended a series of lectures on topics such as ambient air monitoring systems and went on technical visits to the Pollution Control Department of the Bangkok government. Language and cultural experiences were also included as part of the program, offering participants the chance to learn basic Thai language skills and Thai dance. Participants also went on field trips to some of Bangkok's well-known cultural sites and Ayutthaya city – a historic and archeological gem in Central Thailand.

Challenge for Innovation at the United Arab Emirates University

The Challenge for Innovation (C4I), took place from 5-13 January 2019 at the United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) Science and Innovation Park. The purpose was to provide participants with knowledge and skills to write and pitch a business plan in one week and develop the skill set required to start a business. Rather than intending to transform all participants into entrepreneurs, C4I helped participants to develop core knowledge on how to create a business and more importantly, to hone the skills and

competences required for professional fulfillment. These included problem solving, critical thinking, teamwork, autonomy, creativity, written and oral communication, managing uncertainty and how to channel collective action to achieve leadership and self-development objectives. Teams took part in various workshops, mentoring and coaching to transfer their ideas into business solutions that offer high-tech innovative products or services to solve pressing issues.

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STUDENTS

6
UNIVERSITIES

The winning teams for C4I were

1. TRust (United Arab Emirates University) - converts biomass waste to eco-friendly, anti-corrosive material.
2. Abacus (Nazarbayev University) - uses machine learning and computer vision for smart herbicide spraying.
3. Gloco (National University of Singapore) - a marketplace to localize business expansions through unique customized data insights.



C4I participants with program leaders and UAEU Vice Chancellor Mohammed Albaili (back – seventh from left)

Arts and Sports Events

Many AUA member universities have a vibrant arts and sports community. Artistic and sports education constitute an important part of university education as well as campus life. Showcasing artistic performances, producing fine art works and competing in sports activities are regular activities in universities. AUA hopes students grow into creative, independent and sensitive thinkers through nourishment from rich artistic experiences and sportsmanship. AUA supports its members to hold arts and sports events that allow students to showcase talents and deepen cross-cultural understanding.

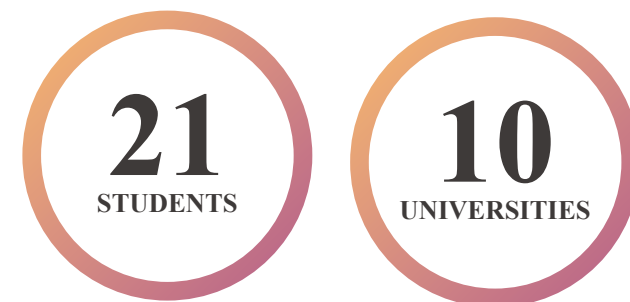
Experiencing the 2018 Winter Olympic Games Site at PyeongChang

From 22-26 November 2017, 21 students from 10 AUA member universities visited the planned site for the 2018 Winter Olympics, which was held in PyeongChang, South Korea – where Seoul National University also has a campus. As the first AUA Arts and Sports Event, this program offered a thoroughly enriching experience for participants. Centering on multi-cultural learning through the medium of an international sports event of the magnitude of the Winter Olympics, participants gained a deep understanding of the economic and social impact of the Olympics on the host region and the world.

Students developed cultural awareness through communication with their peers, multi-cultural team work, and experienced Korean culture first hand. All this contributed to the creation of everlasting friendships across the Asian region, fulfilling one of the key aims of the AUA.



Participants learning Taekwondo – the Korean martial art and national sport



Participants at SNU's PyeongChang campus



Participants visiting the residence of renowned 16th century female Korean poet, Heo Nansoelheon

Testimonials

“It was such a wonderful experience to take part in the activity which enabled us to have a deeper understanding about PyeongChang Winter Olympics and the plan of the city. It was also nice to explore the local culture.”

“It was a good program to bring all of us to one place and make us work in groups. Sharing of opinions of sports among other sports enthusiasts was great. Also, the organizers took good care of the students who attended this program.”

“This was my first experience in Korea. And the impression I got was amazing. I hope these kind of activities will be done in the future by the AUA. It should be renamed as Awesome University Alliance.”



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STUDENTS

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UNIVERSITIES

AUA-UM Tropical Camp at the University of Malaya

The University of Malaya (UM) hosted its first ever AUA activity the AUA-UM Tropical Camp from 5-12 August 2018 in Kuala Lumpur. A total of 19 students from 10 AUA member universities participated in the program designed to promote better understanding of Malaysia, including its biodiversity, environment, and heritage. After a briefing about the AUA-UM Tropical Camp on the first day, participants were introduced to UM's campus and the Malay language, setting the stage for the rest of the program. Outdoor activities were the highlight of this program, where participants used Malaysia's natural environment as a classroom. Participants were able to deepen their knowledge

of Malaysian biodiversity through activities such as stream sampling, frogging, setting up pitfall traps and ecological plotting, besides adventurous activities such as jungle trekking, abseiling, flying fox, and an archery war game.

During the camp, participants also engaged with the local indigenous community, where they learned about the art of blow piping and traditional crafts. The program came to a close with a final presentation by participants on the knowledge they had gained through the camp, as well as sharing their key experiences and takeaways. Besides fulfilling its aims of promoting better understanding of Malaysian culture and heritage, expanding participants' knowledge on Malaysian biodiversity, encouraging a healthy lifestyle through various sports activities and teaching them survival skills in the jungle, this event also stimulated multi-cultural exchanges between the participants and nurtured friendships and communication across borders.



AUA-UM Tropical Camp participants taking part in an archery war game



Participants taking part in the outdoor activities during AUA-UM Tropical Camp



Mutual
Cooperation

Mobility

International
Linkages

Research
Collaboration

Broadened
Horizons

Academic
Advancement

AUA SCHOLARS AWARD

In 2018, AUA launched the AUA Scholars Award (AUASA) to align with the rising trend of cross-border exchanges in academia, and to enhance international linkages, research horizons, and academic advancements. The AUASA provides a steadfast platform for fruitful exchange and tangible academic developments between AUA member universities by encouraging members to host scholars from another member university for a duration of two weeks. The AUASA aims to allow scholars and host universities to conduct comprehensive consultation and spearhead academic liaisons. The visiting scholars can participate in a wide range of activities, from offering courses and delivering lectures to conducting research and field study.

While AUA greatly emphasizes the need for academic exchanges and knowledge transfer within Asia's leading universities, increasing the learning from Asia's rich culture and heritage is also a significant part of our shared experience. As young scholars and experts exchange knowledge and share their research in other Asian countries, they become cultural ambassadors for AUA's long term vision of promoting academic linkages, learning and mutual understanding.

As Asian economies progress and cultivate unique expertise, the AUA is poised to play a meaningful role as a trendsetter in Asian and global higher education. With the success of the AUASA thus far, AUA looks forward to more exchanges and improvements in the research capacity of Asia's leading higher education institutions. In the first year of the program (2018-2019), 29 AUA Scholars completed their academic exchange visits successfully, bringing back immense learning, invaluable experiences and lasting friendships. These exchanges have also paved the way for future collaborations between AUA member universities.

AUA Scholars

Name	Home Institution	Host Institution	Host Professor	Academic Field
Ching Yern Chee	UM	NUS	Neal Tai-Shung Chung	Materials/Polymer Composite
Jaime Jacqueline Jayapalan	UM	IITB	Sanjeeva Srivastava	Cancer Proteomics
Jihong Lee	SNU	NU	Giulio Seccia	Economics
Okyeon Yi	SNU	HKUST	HONG Ji Yeon	Comparative Politics
Byung-Gee Kim	SNU	NUS	Matthew Wook Chang	Biotechnology
Mohd Azlan Hussain	UM	CU	Paisan Kittisupakorn	Chemical Engineering
XIA Lu	PKU	CU	Theerawat Theerapojjanee	Vietnamese Literature, Southeast Asian Literature, Sino-Vietnamese Comparative Literature
Jasmine Lim	UM	UTokyo	Kume Haruki	Medicine and Health Sciences
Donnie Adams Paramasivam	UM	UTokyo	NAKAMURA Kenryu	Education
Ihmku Kim	SNU	UTokyo	Kanichiro Omiya	German Literature and Culture
Stephen Wee Hun Lim	NUS	SNU	Jooyong Park	Psychology/Education
Rozalina Zakaria	UM	UI	Cuk Imawan	Nanophotonics
Kyungpyo Park	SNU	PKU	Guang-Yan Yu	Oral Biology
YAP Teng Teng	UM	PKU	DONG Xiu Fang	Languages and Linguistics
Chaw Chaw Sein	UY	UTokyo	KURAMOTO Ryosuke	International Relations and Political Science
ONG Hwai Chyuan	UM	THU	ZHANG Hai	Energy
LING Tau Chuan	UM	THU	LIU Zheng	Bioseparation
WU Jiewei	PKU	NU	Sejin Koo	Southeast Asia Studies
WAN Yuerong	PKU	NUS	LEE Cheuk Yin	Politics in Thailand, NGOs in Thailand, Regional Studies in Southeast Asia
JIANG Shujun	UAEU	THU	ZHANG Li	Mass Communication
Endah Triastuti	UI	SNU	Yoonhee Kang	Communication
Waleed Khalil Ahmed	UAEU	UM	Yarub Al-Douri	Mechanical and Engineering Material
Jas Laile Jaafar	UM	UI	Tjut Rifameutia Umar Ali	Psychology
Pavadee Saisuwan	CU	NUS	Mie Hiramoto	Linguistics
Azzuliani Supangat	UM	UI	Vivi Fauzia	Materials Science
Tsz Cheung Leung	UAEU	CU	Theeraporn Ratitamkul	Linguistics, Cognitive Science
Mohammed Sajidullah Rafi	UAEU	UM	Jennifer Ann Harikrishna	Plant Biotechnology
Yarub Al-Douri	UM	UAEU	Noureddine Amrane	Nanotechnology
CHEN Gaoqiang	THU	IITB	Amitava De	Mechanical Engineering



Jaime Jacqueline Jayapalan

Centre for Proteomics Research
Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya

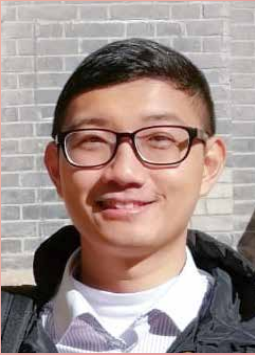
“I have visited the Proteomics Laboratory of Professor Sanjeeva Srivastava, and I must say, it was both exciting and exhilarating as it had neatly integrated various levels of activities including theory, and practical aspects of Proteomics. I joined most of the activities carried out at the laboratory by the team members of Proteomic Laboratory including sample preparation, experiments, data analysis as well as result interpretations.”



Mohammad Sajedullah Rafi

Research Assistant
Khalifa Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology
United Arab Emirates University

“The academic visit to CEBRA was very resourceful. The labs are well equipped and I was introduced to a highly talented research team. I also received a training on ‘Plant Biotech Facility Standard Operational Procedure’ and several SOPs. I thank my host for allowing me to work in her laboratory, and AUA for introducing me to this interdisciplinary research center at UM.”



Hwai Chyuan Ong

Dr., Researcher
Department of Mechanical Engineering
University of Malaya

“This was a great experience for me to explore the THU Department of Energy and Power Engineering as well as the culture of working environment in Tsinghua University. I met faculty members who introduced me to research activities and lab facilities. We have discussed some potential opportunities for students and staff exchange. We will keep in touch and have some close collaboration in the near future.”



Jasmine Lim

Senior Lecturer, Department of Surgery
Faculty of Medicine
University of Malaya

“It has been a wonderful journey! During the academic visit, I did a comprehensive analysis of the demographic, tumour background and treatment of profiles of the Malaysian Prostate Cancer (M-CaP) Registry. I believe I have achieved beyond my personal goals and sincerely wish this research collaboration will flourish in the next 6 months.”



Kyungpyo Park

Professor, Department of Physiology
School of Dentistry
Seoul National University

“PKU School of Stomatology is the No.1 Dental School in mainland China, and No. 15 Worldwide. There were many interesting topics and I could learn new research technology and trends in China. I also talked about ‘Current status of studies on dental research in Seoul National University’ in a seminar. Overall, this visit was a good opportunity for me to learn new research techniques and new research trends. I achieved more outcomes than I have anticipated.”



WU Jiewei

Professor
School of Foreign Languages
Peking University

“The field study activities have increased my intuitive understanding of Kazakhstan and expanded my academic international vision. In particular, the ‘immersion’ academic exchange activities are very conducive to the countries and regional study. If given the opportunity, I would like to recommend the AUA Scholars Award project to other professors and receive international scholars to Peking University as host professor.”



AUA STAFF EXCHANGE PROGRAM



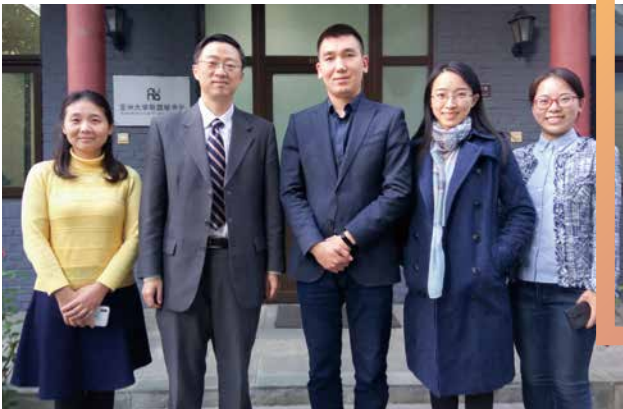
Since the onset of AUA in April 2017, the importance of increased mobility and enhanced exchanges between member universities has been at the forefront of the AUA mission. AUA strongly advocates that meaningful and frequent exchanges between staff members can further boost prospects of cooperation, and also deepen understanding of existing programs, operational procedures and management between member institutions. Taking this realization forward, along with programs for scholars and students, AUA established the AUA Staff Exchange Program (AUASEP) specifically for the staff of AUA member universities.

AUA believes that investing in the staff of member institutions can play a pivotal role in reaching untapped potential. The AUASEP has been established to improve communication between staff of AUA member universities through a week-long immersion program at another overseas

member institution or the AUA Secretariat. Through these immersion programs, AUA can promote the exchange of best practices, enhance knowledge, and improve mutual understanding and coordination. AUASEP has strengthened the bond between the AUA Secretariat and staff of member universities, expanded horizons of AUA institutions through the exchange of new techniques and innovation, and created lasting friendships in the process. With the success of this initiative, AUA also hopes to set an example that staff exchanges are valuable. As AUA moves forward with new programs to promote increased mobility and greater cooperation between member universities, AUASEP serves as a noteworthy platform to expedite this journey.

AUA Exchange Staff

Name	Home Institution	Office/ Department	Host Institution	Host Office/ Department	Date of Visit
ZHANG Kunzhu	THU	Reader Service Department, Tsinghua University Library	SNU	Seoul National University Library	12-21 August 2018
Nada Seifelnasr	UAEU	University Outreach Department	AUA Secretariat	AUA Secretariat	3-7 September 2018
Alfrida Esther Madame Hutapea	UI	International Office	AUA Secretariat	AUA Secretariat	24-28 September 2018
Banu Myrzatay	NU	Office of the President	NUS	Global Relations Office; Office of the President	1-5 October 2018
Chai Kun (Judy) Choong	UM	International Relations Office	AUA Secretariat	AUA Secretariat	15-19 October 2018
Miras Sharipov	NU	Department of International Cooperation	AUA Secretariat	AUA Secretariat	15-19 October 2018
DongHyeon An	SNU	Circulation Inter-Library Loan, Seoul National University Library	THU	Reader Service Department, Tsinghua University Library	28 October – 3 November 2018
SONG Xin	PKU	Office of Provost	UTokyo	International Strategy Group, Management Planning Department	28 October – 4 November 2018
Gamage Manuja Yasangika Dannangoda	UoC	Academic Establishments	CU	Office of International Affairs and Global Network	4-11 November 2018
Aray Saniyazova	NU	Office of the President	SNU	Office of Planning and Coordination	19-23 November 2018
Arnab Das	IITB	Office of Dean of International Relations	UM	International Relations Office	10-14 December 2018
Lui Ling Linda Cheng	NUS	Global Relations Office	AUA Secretariat	AUA Secretariat	17-21 December 2018



“ Participation in the program allowed me to better understand the operations of the AUA and criteria used for assessment of applications.

”
Miras Sharipov
Nazarbayev University

“ The valuable parts are AUA Secretariat giving me the opportunities to visit other offices or units within Tsinghua University, giving the opportunity to deliver presentation about Indonesia and my university.

”
Alfrida Esther Madame Hutapea
Universitas Indonesia

“ The exchange and communication with SNU colleagues will definitely promote the later AUA document delivery program and other cooperation.

”
ZHANG Kunzhu
Tsinghua University



“ My visit was very fruitful in terms of learning and practical experience. We have already shared our agreement draft templates and we expect to sign the same at the earliest and will gradually work on Dual Doctoral Degree program.

”
Arnab Das
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay



Part

Research Collaboration

AUA provides financial support to institutions to host AUA Academic Conferences. Each year, the Secretariat invites AUA universities to hold academic conferences on the topics related to AUA Themes. The AUA institutions may also volunteer to host the conferences. AUA Conferences aim to bring together peer researchers of AUA institutions to meet, share and discuss the knowledge of a particular academic domain.

AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum at Tsinghua University

The New Era of Artificial Intelligence

On 20-22 October 2018, the AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum (AUAPAF) was held at Tsinghua University. Almost 200 students from all 15 founding AUA member universities, as well as over 20 leading experts from enterprise and industry, gathered at Tsinghua University to take part in extensive academic exchanges on areas of basic research, theoretical innovation and the industrial application of artificial intelligence. The forum included four sub-forums, a youth roundtable conference, as well as a visit to an AI exhibition. During the sub-forums, contemporary themes of artificial intelligence were discussed, such as machine learning, interdisciplinary research, data mining and application of artificial intelligence.

200
STUDENTS

15
UNIVERSITIES



Delegates gather before the opening of the forum

Outcomes of AUAPAF

During the forum, the “Asian Youth Declaration - Artificial Intelligence and the Shared Future of Mankind” was signed. The declaration called on Asian youth to join hands to promote exchange and cooperation in various fields of artificial intelligence, to upgrade technology, improve and promote the application of artificial intelligence to solve contemporary problems facing mankind, and pursue the development of artificial intelligence as a means to benefit the world.



Vice President & Provost of Tsinghua University Prof. YANG Bin delivering a speech at the forum

“Thank you so much for everything provided. You had to carry a lot of burdens and you have accomplished it very professionally. Hats off to you all guys.”

AUAPAF participant from Universitas Indonesia



Prof. Kaiping Peng, Dean of The School of Social Sciences at Tsinghua University giving a presentation at the forum



“I am most grateful for all the care and attention given to us during the 3 days. I hope you all have a good rest period. Thank you, thank you and thank you.”

AUAPAF participant from University of Malaya

Forum delegate from an AUA member university

AUA Library Directors Dialogue at Tsinghua University



Delegates of the AUA Library Directors Dialogue at Tsinghua University

The AUA Library Directors Dialogue (LDD) took place at Tsinghua University on 1-2 November 2018. LDD aims to establish collaboration between AUA member libraries through the Document Delivery Service (DDS). DDS provides a platform for the sharing of library literature resources and promotes regional and cultural exchange and cooperation among AUA members. During the event, Tsinghua University Library signed the Document Delivery Cooperation Agreement with libraries from 8 AUA member universities.



DDS Signing Ceremony

Roundtable panel discussion among library directors from AUA member universities



UY Rector Pho Kaung (back, fourth from right), special guests and all presenters of the AUA-UY Academic Conference



Dr. Nan Li from Tsinghua University presenting his research paper titled 'Access The Change of Water Quality in The Sponge City of LCTIP'

AUA-UY Academic Conference at the University of Yangon

Sustainable Environmental Conservation: Water Resources

On 4 December 2018, the AUA-UY Academic Conference on the topic of "Sustainable Environmental Conservation: Water Resources" was hosted by the University of Yangon (UY). This academic conference aimed to shed light on the importance of water resources among AUA universities; to strengthen efforts on the protection of water sources and major rivers in Asia; to explore fresh water studies and water development; and to develop water studies and research as part of university education. In panel session 1, under the theme of "Water Resources Management and Sustainable Development", discussions focused on the threatening impact of climate change on ecosystems and environments that protect vital water resources. Discussants reinforced the importance of improving the treatment of water systems and water resources such as storm, ground and waste water.



Dr. Kokila Konasinghe from the University of Colombo answering a question from the audience about the environmental impact assessment in Sri Lanka

In panel session 2, titled "River Conservation and Management", speakers provided unique perspectives, stating that river conservation must be based on principles of ecological sustainability and social justice. Presenters highlighted the importance of involving both planning authorities and local communities in river conservation and management as it is closely connected to environmental and economic benefits of people who dwell along rivers. Discussants recommended that to ensure sustainable development, social impact assessments need to be developed in the primary stage of the national planning decision-making process.

In the final panel session, under the sub-topic of "Climate Change, Environmental Policy and Water Resource Development", participants espoused the view that it is essential to enhance the judicial role in environmental litigation to protect the environment for present and future generations and to achieve sustainable development. It was mentioned that inducing green building design is an apt way for the regions of hot-dry tropical climatic conditions to control or modify water consumption. Concluding the discussion, participants agreed that the world's supply of groundwater is steadily decreasing and ecosystems are threatened and increased efforts are required for sustainable water management in all countries, regardless of economic development.



UY Pro Rector Dr. Omar Kyaw being interviewed about the AUA-UY Academic Conference 2018

THA 2019 International Conference at Chulalongkorn University



Two delegates representing one of the 23 exhibition booths at THA 2019

The first subtheme on ‘Climate Change and Uncertainty in Hydrology and Meteorology’ centered on the topic of climatic and rainfall change including climate change adaptation. In hydrology and meteorology, the topic covered a wide range of areas such as storm prediction, river flow, sedimentation, and drainage.

The second subtheme on ‘Participatory Management for Water and Irrigation Projects’ covered participatory management experiences shared by presenters from many countries and water use efficiency for crop and water-energy-food nexus.

The third subtheme on ‘Emerging Digital Technologies in Water Management and Environment Towards Nexus

Water Management and Climate Change towards Asia’s Water-Energy-Food Nexus and SDGs

Taking place from 23-25 January 2019, the objective of THA 2019 International Conference was to provide a platform for researchers, practitioners and policy makers to present new research findings and perspectives related to Disaster, Irrigation and Water Management towards Nexus (WEF) and the 2030 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Special attention was given towards the development of certain skills or competencies or general upgrading of performance ability for climate change adaptation, participatory water management, disaster and environmental management, and sustainable development in Monsoon Asia. The conference aimed to bring together leading minds from around the world in the related domains. Six scholars from AUA member universities attended the three-day event.

and SDGs’ related to many issues of water-energy-food nexus and SDGs. The technologies for urban water supply, application of irrigation, water quality management, downscale of rainfall prediction, and water footprint were key points of discussion.

The last subtheme on ‘Disaster and Groundwater Management’ covered many issues about policy on disaster management, assessment of extreme events including floods, droughts and landslides. In addition to groundwater issues, the papers covered groundwater modeling, assessment of groundwater under climate change, groundwater yield estimation and effect of land use change on groundwater.

UAEU-AUA Joint Research Program

The United Arab Emirates University (UAEU) has proposed the establishment of the ‘UAEU-AUA Joint Research Program’. This long term research collaboration is aimed at advancing the research mission of UAEU and other AUA members. The program is inspired by the United Arab Emirates Vision 2021: “innovation, research, science and technology form the basis of a productive and competitive knowledge-based economy.”

This initiative will establish long-term, high-quality research collaborations between UAEU and other members of the AUA that share the same research expectations and interests. UAEU has announced a grant for 3 years to enable this effort of promoting deeper long-term academic cooperation between AUA members.

UAEU-AUA Joint Research Program Objectives:

1. Establish a long-term research collaboration between UAEU and other members of AUA
2. Advance the research mission of UAEU and other members of AUA
3. Publish high-impact joint journal articles in top 1–5% SCOPUS Journals
4. Develop research groups among members of AUA to secure mega research fund to lead to scientific discoveries

The selected research projects are:

1. Cognitive Mirroring by Continual Lifelong Learning: Robot-Avatar Therapy to Access Autism Spectrum Disorder (UAEU & University of Malaya/The University of Tokyo)
2. Molecular Imaging of Autoreactive B Lymphocytes to Decipher Signaling Dysregulations in Autoimmune Diseases (UAEU & Tsinghua University)
3. Biodiesel Production from Inedible Oils Using Immobilized Lipase on Rationally Synthesized Metal-Organic Frameworks (MOFs) (UAEU & Tsinghua University)
4. Designing Graphene for Next Generation Water Filtration and Desalination Applications (UAEU & National University of Singapore)
5. Mitigation of Deposition on Heat Exchanger Surfaces by Nanoparticle Additives and Conductive Polymeric Coatings (UAEU & University of Malaya)
6. Development and Testing of Novel Nonlinear Stochastic Wave Excitation Force Estimators – Simulation and Experimental Study (UAEU & University of Malaya)

UAEU-AUA Research Fellowship Program

Recognizing the importance of periodic interaction between AUA member universities, UAEU has initiated the UAEU-AUA Research Fellowship Program. This program will specifically focus on the areas of strategic importance to the United Arab Emirates including renewable energy, transportation, education, health, technology, water resources and space exploration.

UAEU-AUA Research Fellowship Program Objectives:

1. Establish a long-term, high-quality research collaboration between UAE University and other members of AUA
2. Support exchange of scholars
3. Foster joint-research activities among UAEU and other members of AUA
4. Develop knowledge through joint-publications in top ranked journals

The selected research fellows and projects are:

1. Yingqiu Xie, Nazarbayev University, “Novel Anti-Cancer Drugs Induced DNA Damage and Repair Signaling”
2. Hazile Mokhlis, University of Malaya, “Mitigation Renewable Energy Impacts on Grid Connected Microgrid: Penetrated by Electric Vehicles”
3. Azizuddin Khan, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, “Cognitive and Neural Underpinning of Developmental Dyslexia: Cross-linguistic and Electrophysiological Approaches”
4. Ahmed El-Shafie, University of Malaya, “Generalized Soft Computing Model for Groundwater Quantity and Quality in Different Climatic Zone”
5. Muhammad Alzaidi, King Saud University, “Prosodic Encoding of Focus in Emirate Arabic”
6. Bushra AlQuadeib, King Saud University, “Oral Delivery for Lisinopril as Biodegradable Beads In Vitro and In Vivo Studies”

Part

Strategy & Policy

The AUA is dedicated to providing a platform that generates quality discussions on university strategies, policies, and practices. Through the AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF), AUA brings together university leaders to establish dialogues on the development of strategic plans, the improvement of management systems, and to address problems that concern higher education. AUA also plans to develop dialogues and forums for senior managers and staff of specific departments with the purpose of sharing best practices.



From L to R :

Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University; GONOKAMI Makoto, President, The University of Tokyo; Erry Riyana Hardjapamekas, Chairman (Board of Trustees), Universitas Indonesia; Shigeo Katsu, President, Nazarbayev University; LIN Jianhua, President, Peking University; Prasanna M. Mujumdar, Deputy Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay; Noorsaadah A Rahman, Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Malaya; Omar Kyaw, Pro Rector, University of Yangon; QIU Yong, President, Tsinghua University; Wei Shyy, Executive Vice President and Provost, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

AUA PRESIDENTS FORUM 2017

From L to R: Mohammed Albaili, Vice Chancellor, United Arab Emirates University; Abdullah Al-Salman, Vice Rector, King Saud University; Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo



SUNG Nak-in (L), President, Seoul National University; TAN Eng Chye (R), Deputy President and Provost, National University of Singapore

Shaping a Better Future for Asian Higher Education

The first AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF) was held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China on 29 April 2017. Moderated by TIAN Wei of China Global Television Network, the theme of the AUAPF 2017 was “Shaping a Better Future for Asian Higher Education”. The AUA university presidents discussed a myriad of issues relating to higher education systems and development in their respective countries, as well as the Asian region as a whole. Main topics included goals of higher education in the era of globalization, approaches to increasing the global reputation and impact of Asian universities, building collaborative ecosystems between academia, government and industry, and the integration of Asian wisdom and Western thoughts of education.





博鳌亚洲论坛2018年年会 BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2018



From L to R :

Omar Kyaw, Pro Rector, University of Yangon

Sabrina Lin, Vice President, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Muhammad Anis, Rector, Universitas Indonesia

SUNG Nak-in, President, Seoul National University

Lakshman Dissanayake, Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

Abdul Rahim Hashim, Vice Chancellor, University of Malaya

CHEN Luyu, Moderator

QIU Yong, President, Tsinghua University

Abdullah Al-Salman, Vice Rector, King Saud University

Shigeo Katsu, President, Nazarbayev University

TAN Eng Chye, President, National University of Singapore

Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University

Devang V. Khakhar, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

AUA PRESIDENTS FORUM 2018: HIGHER EDUCATION ROUNDTABLE AT BOAO FORUM FOR ASIA

The Rise of Asian Universities

On 10 April 2018, the second AUAPF was held as a session of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA) Annual Conference 2018. Established in 2001, the BFA serves as a platform for leaders in government, industry, business and academia in Asia and other regions to come together and discuss important issues, challenges and opportunities facing Asia and the world at large. The AUAPF took place in the form of a roundtable discussion related to higher education titled “The Rise of Asian Universities”. Delegates from AUA universities engaged in discussions on key matters pertaining to higher education institutes in Asia, such as the mission of Asian universities, the role they should play in global higher education, the impact of Asian universities on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and innovation and technology transfer.



“

I believe openness to be one of the most important features of higher education in the 21st century. Openness is a prerequisite for innovation and cultivation of young talents with a global vision. I am confident that by promoting openness, Asian universities will have more influence in global higher education and will significantly contribute to the development of Asia and the world.

”

Prof. **QIU Yong**
AUA President
President, Tsinghua University



“

I think it is important that universities alter their curricula in order to successfully respond to the challenges posed by Industry 4.0. After that, we can strengthen collaboration in distance education and lifelong learning.

”

Prof. **Muhammad Anis**
AUA Executive President 2018-2019
Rector, Universitas Indonesia



“

The impact that can be made from new disruptive technology greatly depends on the ability of the university to be responsive to the future needs of society.

”

Prof. **Bundhit Eua-arporn**
AUA Executive President 2017-2018
President, Chulalongkorn University

AUA GRADUATE EDUCATION FORUM AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

Collaborations and Innovations in Graduate Education

The AUA Graduate Education Forum (AUAGEF) was jointly proposed by Chulalongkorn University, Tsinghua University and Universitas Indonesia, and was held at Tsinghua University on 18 November 2018. The event was attended by 28 participants from 12 AUA member universities. AUAGEF participants work in the management of graduate schools and programs in their respective institutions.

The purpose of AUAGEF was to promote higher education collaboration among member universities, exchange ideas and find solutions to pressing issues in graduate education.

28
PARTICIPANTS

12
UNIVERSITIES



Group photo of all delegates at the AUA Graduate Education Forum

Part

Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)

AUA publishes an annual report on Asian higher education every year. The first report: *Asian Higher Education Outlook 2018: Creation and Direction of the Asian Universities Alliance* provides a broader perspective of Asian higher education and delves into the analysis of the AUA members. Each succeeding annual report will focus on more specific aspects of Asian higher education and will serve to be an insightful and influential publication in the Asian region and beyond. Based at Tsinghua

University (THU), the first research team consisted of professors and staff of THU, and experts from other AUA and non-AUA universities and external organizations. In addition to the research team, the fifteen founding AUA members have contributed by providing essential data and issuing advice and suggestions for revision. In following editions, member universities will provide whole chapters and case studies focusing on specific issues pertaining to Asian higher education.

AHEO BOOK LAUNCH AND ROUNDTABLE AT TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY

On 9 November 2018, the book launch and roundtable discussion for the inaugural *AHEO 2018* took place at Tsinghua University. Over ten representatives from AUA institutions, some of whom are members of the research team for the second annual report, traveled to Beijing for the event. Members of Tsinghua University's Institute of Education, including two of the leading authors of the first edition of *AHEO*, Dr. ZHONG Zhou and Prof. SHI Jinghuan, also attended the event. Rector of Universitas Indonesia and AUA Executive President 2018-2019, Prof. Muhammad Anis; President of Chulalongkorn University and AUA Executive President 2017-2018, Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn; and Vice Chancellor of the University of Colombo, Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, each sent a congratulatory video message which was played at the launch.

Dr. Zhong delivered a speech thanking those for their contributions to the compilation and publication of the report. Board Chair of Tsinghua University Press LI Yong, delivered a congratulatory address before officially presenting the first copy of *AHEO 2018* to Vice President and Provost of Tsinghua University, Prof. YANG Bin. In his address, Prof. Yang said: *"As the report pointed out, the center of academic gravity is shifting towards a rising Asia. The region is emerging as a global center of excellence in research and innovation, driven by unwavering national commitments to strategic investment in higher education."*

Following the book launch, research team members took part in a two-day roundtable discussion focusing on the topics and content of the second *AHEO* report. Themes of the second report relate to shared online education and massive open online courses (MOOCs), roles of universities in promoting stability in the Asian region, social contribution of universities, the future of university transformations, building global faculties, education innovation in Asia and governance in higher education. The second *AHEO* report is due to be published in 2019.

(L) Hamish Coates (THU) and
(R) Ackadej Chaiperm (CU)



(L) FANG Yanhua (AUA Secretariat) and
(R) Darkhan Bilyalov (NU)



(L) Milind Sohoni (IITB),
(C) Oshin Sandeep Dharap (IITB) and
(R) Juliana Binti Othman (UM)



L to R:
SHI Jinguan,
ZHONG Zhou,
YANG Bin and
LI Yong



Participants at the book launch

AHEO 2018 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The center of academic gravity is shifting towards a rising Asia, which hosts the largest enrolment in higher education in the world after more than two decades of growth in access and participation. Asia is also emerging as a global center of excellence in research and innovation, supported by a strong national commitment for strategic investment in higher education. The rise of higher education in Asia is both a driver and outcome of the continent’s robust population growth, dynamic economy, innovative entrepreneurship and profound social transformation.

The founding of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) on 29 April 2017 marks a new milestone in Asian higher education. AUA brings together 15 universities from 13 countries across Asia to form a creative partnership with a mission “to jointly address regional and global challenges, specifically related to higher education and economic, scientific and technological development, by strengthening collaboration among member institutions.”

This 2018 Report is the first of the planned annual series entitled Asian Higher Education Outlook. The Report sets the scene for the establishment and direction of the AUA. It represents an effort to engage in deliberation and exploration of the rationale and mission of AUA through the collective and individual strength and expectations of its members.

The early chapters of this Report set out the nature and position of Asian higher education in its global and national contexts by examining major trends in the transformation of Asia and Asian higher education. The chapters to follow examine the diverse institutional characteristics and initiatives of AUA members. The report explores the roles of Asian universities in expanded participation and diversified provision through transnational education. This was accomplished by identifying alignment with the directions and needs of government, industry, and the wider community, driving the rise of the innovative and the entrepreneurial character of universities, and mapping emerging trends in the field of Asia’s higher education studies. A key feature of the Report is the outcome of the AUA member survey about expectations, and ways to ensure the future success of AUA as a whole, as well as provide added value for member institutions. The Report concludes with specific recommendations to achieve AUA’s mission.

AHEO 2019 TEAM MEMBERS

Name	Department	University	Chapter
Professor Hamish Coates	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	1, 2, 3, 4, 8
Associate Professor Zhou Zhong	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	1, 4, 7, 8
Professor Jinghuan Shi	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	1, 8
Doctor Lu Liu	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	2, 4
Ms. Xi Hong	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	2, 7
Ms. Xi Gao	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	2
Ms. Liu Liu	Institute of Education	Tsinghua University	2
Professor Mohamed Madi	Office of the Vice Chancellor	United Arab Emirates University	3, 7
Assistant Professor Darkhan Bilyalov	Graduate School of Education	Nazarbayev University	3
Professor Khin Khin Oo	Department of Law	University of Yangon	3
Doctor HeeJin Rachel Lim	Education Research Institute	Seoul National University	3
Professor Jiewei Wu	School of Foreign Languages	Peking University	3

Name	Department	University	Chapter
Doctor See Zein	Department of Psychology	University of Yangon	3
Ms. Ding Guan	Instructional Assistant	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	4
Professor James Lee	School of Humanities and Social Sciences	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	4
Doctor Oshin Dharap	Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	5
Associate Professor Juliana Othman	Faculty of Education	University of Malaya	5
Professor Milind Sohoni	Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	5
Professor Indah Widyahening	Faculty of Medicine	Universitas Indonesia	5
Ms. Tharushika Pathirange	Registrar Office	University of Colombo	5
Professor Marie Perera	Faculty of Education	University of Colombo	5
Associate Professor Yuto Kitamura	Graduate School of Education	The University of Tokyo	6
Doctor Jing Liu	Graduate School of Education	The University of Tokyo	6
Doctor Keshia Lai Shu-Hui	Office of the Provost	National University of Singapore	7

EXTERNAL ACTIVITY: THE WORLD ACADEMIC SUMMIT

‘University Networks Across Borders – Harnessing Strengths in Differences’

From 25-27 September 2018, the Times Higher Education (THE) 5th World Academic Summit was held in Singapore. Themed “The Transformative Power of Research: Advancing Knowledge, Driving Economies, Building Nations”, the Summit brought together university leaders and prominent experts to disseminate new knowledge and foster the growth of innovative ideas. The event served as the launch platform for the THE World University Rankings 2019 and played host to over 400 leaders from academia, representing 51 countries.

AUA Executive President 2018-2019, Prof. Muhammad Anis attended the THE World Academic Summit as the AUA representative, and took part in a breakout session entitled “University Networks Across Borders – Harnessing Strengths in Differences”. Drawing from his extensive experience, Prof. Anis spoke about how regional and international university alliances work collaboratively to share expertise and resources. Highlighting the unique aspects of AUA, Prof. Anis espoused the mission and the goals of the alliance and described in detail the modules of AUA programs and activities. Following this, Prof. Anis emphasized the value and benefit of university alliances to the member institutions and the communities which they serve. He discussed the role that higher education will play in shaping Asian societies in the future, stating that AUA would “build closer ties both among member universities and with universities outside of AUA”. Prof. Anis mentioned the AUA libraries’ Document Delivery Service, AUA student mobility programs, and the AUA Scholars Award to highlight AUA’s impact so far.



Prof. Anis (second from left) at the THE World Academic Summit in NUS

ABOUT THE SECRETARIAT



Meet the team:

- Dr. ZHANG Chuanjie, AUA Secretary, third from left
- Ms. FANG Yanhua, Chief Administrator, third from right
- Ms. WANG Yaqian, Administrator (Policy & Programs), second from left
- Ms. HAN Zhuoluo, Administrator (Finance & Programs), second from right
- Ms. Paula Kelleher, Administrator (Media & Programs), far right
- Ms. ZHENG Qun, Administrator (Media & Programs), far left

KEY DATES 2017-2019

	Date	Program name	Host University
2017	25-29 April	AUA Youth Innovation Workshop	Tsinghua University
	28 April	AUA Board Meeting 2017	Tsinghua University
	29 April	AUA Launch Ceremony	Tsinghua University
	29 April	AUA Presidents Forum 2017	Tsinghua University
	30 July-12 August	Students Week: Sustainable Development	Universitas Indonesia
	13-17 November	AUA Youth Forum 2017: Empowering Youth towards Sustainability	Chulalongkorn University
	16-17 November	AUA Executives Meeting 2017	Chulalongkorn University
2018	22-26 November	Experiencing the Winter Olympic Games Site at PyeongChang	Seoul National University
	9 April	AUA Board Meeting 2018	Tsinghua University
	10 April	AUA Presidents Forum 2018	Tsinghua University
	3-17 July	Asia Deep Dive Program 2018: Exploring Kazakhstan - The Heart of Central Asia	Nazarbayev University
	8-21 July	Students Update: Life Below Water	Universitas Indonesia
	29 July-9 August	Mega City Environments & Resource Management	Chulalongkorn University
	5-12 August	AUA-UM Tropical Camp	University of Malaya
	25-27 September	THE World Academic Summit (External Activity)	National University of Singapore
	20-22 October	AUA Postgraduate Academic Forum	Tsinghua University
	1-2 November	AUA Library Directors Dialogue	Tsinghua University
	9 November	AHEO Book Launch & Roundtable	Tsinghua University
	13-16 November	AUA Youth Forum 2018: Healthy Oceans	Universitas Indonesia
	15-16 November	AUA Executives Meeting 2018	Universitas Indonesia
	18 November	AUA Graduate Education Forum	Tsinghua University
	4 December	AUA-UY Academic Conference on Sustainable Environmental Conservation: Water Resources	University of Yangon
2019	5-13 January	Challenge for Innovation	United Arab Emirates University
	23-25 January	THA 2019 International Conference	Chulalongkorn University



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