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
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.

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 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 UAUEU-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.

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Let us integrate Asian wisdom and shape a better future.
A MESSAGE FROM THE AUA EXECUTIVE PRESIDENT 2018-2019

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—universities can no longer administer education solely in the traditional way. We have therefore supported our 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 the 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.

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 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. It 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

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AUA Executive President 2018-2019
Rector, Universitas Indonesia

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

Introduction to AUA
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
Saud National University
Tsinghua University
United Arab Emirates University
Universitas Indonesia
University of Colombo
University of Malaya
The University of Tokyo
University of Yangon
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.

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 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.
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)

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

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).
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.

“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.”

“AUA Youth Forum 2018 in Bali, Indonesia

Healthy Oceans

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

“...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
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.

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.
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 Selvan
University of Malaya

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

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.

Overseas Study Programs

“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

“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 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

“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)

“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.”

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Life Below Water participant from National University of Singapore
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.

Students Week 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.
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, 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.

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.
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.

**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."
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.

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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Institution</th>
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<th>Host Professor</th>
<th>Academic Field</th>
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<td>Materials/Polymer Composite</td>
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<td>Gidiu Secio</td>
<td>Economics</td>
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<td>Okyoon Yi</td>
<td>SNU</td>
<td>HKUST</td>
<td>HONG Yi Yoon</td>
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<td>Matthew Wood Chang</td>
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<td>CU</td>
<td>Pasiun Kitiapakorn</td>
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<td>Xia Lu</td>
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<td>Thezerorat</td>
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<td>Jaemine Lim</td>
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<td>UTokyo</td>
<td>Kane Huruki</td>
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<td>NAKAMURA Kenyu</td>
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<td>Kanichiro Omiya</td>
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<td>Jennifer Ann Harkishola</td>
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<td>ITTB</td>
<td>Amireva De</td>
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</table>

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 nearly 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 Proteomics Laboratory including sample preparation, experiments, data analysis as well as result interpretations.”

Mohammad Sajidullah 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.”
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.

Deepened Cooperation
Enhanced Knowledge
Innovation

Mobility
Strategy & Planning
Enriched Coordination

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

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

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.

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.

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### AUA Exchange Staff

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Home Institution</th>
<th>Office/Department</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
<th>Host Office/Department</th>
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<td>ZHANG Kunzhu</td>
<td>THU</td>
<td>Reader Service Department,</td>
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<td>Tsinghua University Library</td>
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<td>Nada Seifelnasr</td>
<td>UAEU</td>
<td>University Outreach Department</td>
<td>AUA Secretariat</td>
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<td>3-7 September 2018</td>
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<td>Alfida Esther</td>
<td>UI</td>
<td>International Office</td>
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<td>Madame Hutapea</td>
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<td>Bana Myrezatay</td>
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<td>Office of the President</td>
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<td>Global Relations Office;</td>
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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.
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.

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.

“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

“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

“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

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AUAPAF participant from University of Malaya

Forum delegate from an AUA member university
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.

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.

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.
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.

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 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 Autoimmune 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 Exchange Surfaces by Nanoparticle Additives and Conductive Polymeric Coatings (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. Yingxia Xie, Nazarbayev University, “Novel Anti-Cancer Drugs Induced DNA Damage and Repair Signalizing”
5. Muhammad Afzal, 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”

The selected research fellowships are a five-year grant to researchers from AUA member universities to carry out research in UAEU departments. The Fellows will work closely with UAEU researchers for five years to collaboratively develop innovative research projects in priority areas.

UAEU-AUA Research Collaboration Objectives:
1. Foster joint-research activities among UAE University and other members of AUA
2. Support exchange of scholars
3. Establish a long-term, high-quality research collaboration between UAEU and other members of AUA

UAEU-AUA Research Fellowship Program: Established in 2019, this program aims to support the development of new research partnerships between UAEU and other members of AUA. The fellowship provides an opportunity for researchers to conduct research at UAEU and undertake collaborative research projects with UAEU faculty members. The program is open to researchers from AUA member universities who are interested in conducting joint research with UAEU faculty members.

UAEU-AUA Research Collaboration: This long-term research collaboration is aimed at promoting deeper long-term academic cooperation between UAE University and other members of AUA. The collaboration will provide a platform for researchers to exchange ideas and expertise, and to develop joint research projects in priority areas. The collaboration will also support the development of new research partnerships and promote the sharing of resources and expertise between UAEU and other members of AUA.
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.
AUA PRESIDENTS FORUM 2017

Shaping a Better Future for Asian Higher Education

The first AUA Presidents Forum (AUPF) was held at Tsinghua University, Beijing, China on 29 April 2017. Moderated by TIAN Wei of China Global Television Network, the theme of the AUPF 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.
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

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.
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.
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. Bandhit Eua-anporn; 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.
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 strengths 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.
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.
### 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

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Program name</th>
<th>Host University</th>
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<td>25-29 April</td>
<td>AUA Youth Innovation Workshop</td>
<td>Tsinghua University</td>
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<td>28 April</td>
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<td>13-17 November</td>
<td>AUA Youth Forum 2017: Empowering Youth towards Sustainability</td>
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