Asian
Universities
Alliance

AUA
Yearbook

2019-2020

AUA Members

University	Abbrev.	Location
Chulalongkorn University	CU	Bangkok, Thailand
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	HKUST	Hong Kong, China
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	IITB	Mumbai, India
King Saud University	KSU	Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
National University of Singapore	NUS	Singapore
Nazarbayev University	NU	Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
Peking University	PKU	Beijing, China
Seoul National University	SNU	Seoul, South Korea
Tsinghua University	THU	Beijing, China
United Arab Emirates University	UAEU	Al Ain, United Arab Emirates
Universitas Indonesia	UI	Jakarta, Indonesia
Universiti Malaya	UM	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
University of Colombo	UoC	Colombo, Sri Lanka
The University of Tokyo	UTokyo	Tokyo, Japan
University of Yangon	UY	Yangon, Myanmar

AUA Impact 2019-2020

1
Presidents Forum

3
Conferences

59
AUA Scholars

7
Student Programs

188
Students

15
AUA Exchange Staff

AUA Presidents Forum 2019

Session 1: Roles of Universities in the Sustainability Agenda Session 2: Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology & Tsinghua University	April 2019

AUA Conferences

Online Education Conference	Tsinghua University	July 2019
Communication of Mass Culture between China and Other Asian Countries in the 21st Century	Peking University	November 2019
Sustainable Universal Health Care Coverage	Chulalongkorn University	January 2020

AUA Student Programs

AUA Student Competition: Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges	Nazarbayev University	June 2019
Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	July 2019
AUA Youth Forum 2019: Wellbeing Beyond Health	University of Colombo	November 2019
Sun, Society, Sustainability	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	December 2019
Design Thinking for Urban Challenges: Big Data Approach	Seoul National University	January 2020
AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities Through Arts 2020	Universiti Malaya	January 2020
AUA Asia Deep Dive Program 2020: United Arab Emirates - Past, Present, Future	United Arab Emirates University	January 2020

A Message from the AUA President

As President of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA), it is my great honor to present the AUA Yearbook 2019-2020. This Yearbook showcases the various AUA programs and activities which have taken place over the past year and I invite you to explore these accomplishments in the pages ahead.

This year marks the third year of AUA operations. We began the year with the AUA Summit which took place in Hong Kong on 13-14 April 2019. The two-day event consisted of the AUA Board Meeting, the AUA Presidents Forum and the first round of internal working group meetings. This year's Board Meeting was attended by over 60 delegates from all 15 member universities. During the Meeting, AUA members unanimously agreed for Tsinghua University to hold a second consecutive term of AUA Presidency, beginning from April 2020 until April 2023. AUA members also collectively agreed for the AUA Secretariat to be permanently hosted by Tsinghua University. The AUA Presidents Forum 2019 took place at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, who jointly hosted the event with Tsinghua University. The Forum focused on two major themes essential to global development: sustainability and innovation. AUA Presidents

and senior academics of member universities took part in the Forum, bringing an array of diverse contributions and experiences to the discussion, resulting in fruitful exchanges and sharing of knowledge among the participants, as well as spreading the insights and capabilities of AUA to a wider audience.

This year the University of Colombo assumed the role of AUA Executive Presidency 2019-2020, with Professor Chandrika Wijeyaratne serving as AUA Executive President 2019-2020. The 2019 AUA Executives' Meeting and AUA Youth Forum took place at the University of Colombo in November, coinciding with the beginning of the celebrations for the 150th anniversary of the university. Congratulations to the University of Colombo on this momentous occasion.

Between June 2019 and January 2020, 6 AUA members hosted 7 student programs in disciplines ranging from innovation and sustainable energy, to good governance and art appreciation, with over 180 students participating in these programs. The AUA Scholars Award Program, now in its second year of operation, reached full capacity this year by providing scholarships to 59 AUA Scholars to conduct a

two-week research exchange at another AUA member university. The AUA Staff Exchange Program, also in its second year, sponsored 15 AUA Exchange Staff to carry out a short-term visit to another AUA member or the AUA Secretariat in order to share knowledge and best practices of university administration. The UAEU-AUA Joint Research Program, a long-term research collaboration project initiated in 2018, is still ongoing, while 4 scholars sponsored by the UAEU-AUA Research Fellowship Program have successfully completed their academic visits.

Three diverse academic and administrative conferences were hosted this year on themes of 'Online Education' (Tsinghua University, July 2019), 'Communication of Mass Culture between China and Other Asian Countries in the 21st Century' (Peking University, November 2019) and 'Sustainable Universal Health Care Coverage' (Chulalongkorn University, January 2020).

The *Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO) 2019*, themed *'Education Innovation',* was published by Routledge Press this year. The second in the series, *AHEO 2019* focuses on education innovation within AUA member institutions, responding to an urgent need to better understand education, teaching and learning at leading Asian universities. Educating highly talented people is core to AUA universities, and a major global contribution. Yet, there is little shared insight into what is taking place and what is being achieved in universities. *AHEO 2019* has filled in this gap with abundant first-hand data and case studies.

This year also marks the completion of the AUA Framework 2017-2020. Many of the first three years' AUA programs and activities have centered around the pertinent and contemporary theme of innovation. The 21st century is the century of innovation, bringing great changes to societies all over the world, particularly in Asia. Emerging technologies are continually advancing human capabilities, coinciding with the ever-deepening nature of interaction between

and among civilizations. In order to shape a better future for all, we need to persistently evaluate how we are innovating and clarify the role of universities in this process.

The beginning of the new decade in 2020 brought with it an unprecedented threat to global public health, as well as higher education and academic mobility, due to the outbreak of COVID-19. In light of this global challenge, the role of AUA is more important now than ever. Universities have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of the students, faculty, staff and the surrounding community, maintain the standard of education and advance research during this public health emergency. As an Alliance built on the pillars of collaboration and partnership, AUA is well placed to address these mutual challenges through joint efforts for the benefit of all members, as well as the global higher education community and the societies which we serve.

Our current practices of collaboration in higher education may transform in the aftermath of the global pandemic. AUA will be equipped to adapt to the changes ahead, with each of us contributing a distinct and valuable set of strengths. Combining and integrating the interdisciplinary skillsets of each member university is a necessary and important means to mitigate the impact of COVID-19, and achieve advanced innovative outcomes for the region. Even in the face of adversity, the collective strength and spirit of our members will support AUA to grow stronger and stronger.

Prof. QIU Yong
AUA President
President, Tsinghua University

A Message from the AUA Executive President 2019-2020

It is my privilege and pleasure to review and reflect on the achievements gained and challenges overcome by the Asian Universities Alliance at the completion of its third year of operation. Being a consortium of widely respected universities in Asia that is home to more than one half of the world populace, the AUA assembled as one institution to address higher education needs of the 21st century, as we approach its third decade. The University of Colombo had the distinct honour of witnessing the enthusiastic commitment of the 15 member universities of AUA in sustaining the pledge to be a single force and address the collective objectives of Asia.

Leading universities, wherever they are located, are highly invigorating, complex and unique work environments. They certainly cannot and must not function in silos. Together we have a unique capability. We can leverage an effective translation of our rich educational yield for the betterment of Asia and the world at large, in every sphere of human development. High ranked universities are indeed assets within local communities, countries and regions. The AUA's expertise in education and research in the different disciplines has the ability to support our national policies perennially. I am sure you would agree that our collective vision aims for a world class academia and alumni who are role models. Our common aim is for our graduates to have the distinctive characteristics of being decent, upright, capable, competent and confident leaders. We are committed to ensure that our products can engage with society in any setting, with efficiency and effectiveness, while maintaining their international recognition as committed professionals.

The AUA's work plan for 2019-2020 encouraged members to address the common objectives. The staff and students of our member universities had multiple interactions for the very purpose of being collectively a strong, professional, independent and regional dynamism. The creation of such cohorts and clusters has helped AUA form a "nucleus of intellect" in Asia that can generate new ideas for every sphere of society and also guide our individual countries. We remained together to exchange views, agree and dissent, learn from one another, network and shape the future. Our regular dialogues enabled the building of strong and sustainable collaborations across geographic boundaries. The numerous interactions of AUA members in its third year further enhanced our pursuance of excellence in higher education and scientific research in our continent. Together we can continue to contribute to the vast landscape of Asia and help towards the development of policy frameworks through an evidence-based process.

The meeting of AUA Executives in November 2019 in Sri Lanka, reinforced our commitment and inspired our young academics, scholars and students alike. We engaged in an objective review of the work plan for the next three years by incorporating new priorities. Our engagement to give leadership in new vistas of education, research, management and services, helped strategize our future activities. We look forward to working within this framework in the coming years. It would be remiss of me not to recall the multiple players, particularly the AUA Secretariat and the individual universities' central administrations who worked together tirelessly throughout the year. I also wish to place on record the excellent outcomes of the AUA Youth Forum 2019 held in Colombo, which addressed Sustainable Development Goal #3 on 'Health and Wellbeing'. Our teams of youthful organizers worked tirelessly with precision and care to engage every student who took back to their own university community a plan of action to address the issues identified therein.

In conclusion, let us continue to aspire towards the sacred objectives of AUA in addressing the quality and relevance of the educational milieu of our seats of learning, thereby paving the way for improvement with a distinct purpose. Collectively the alliance personifies the Asian identity in the educational landscape through a strong collaboration, thus enabling the achievement of our collective goal to address the needs of each other and to be in healthy competition within Asia and beyond.

Prof. Chandrika Wijeyaratne
AUA Executive President 2019-2020
Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo

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01
About AUA

Mission

"

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

"

Timeline

March
AUA Proposed by Tsinghua
University

2016

2016

September
AUA Preparatory Meeting

April
Launch of AUA and the first AUA
Summit (hosted by Tsinghua
University)

2017

2017

July-August
First AUA Overseas Study Program
(hosted by Universitas Indonesia)

March
Launch of AUA Scholars Award
Program

2018

2018

April
Launch of AUA Staff Exchange
Program

November
First Asian Higher Education Outlook
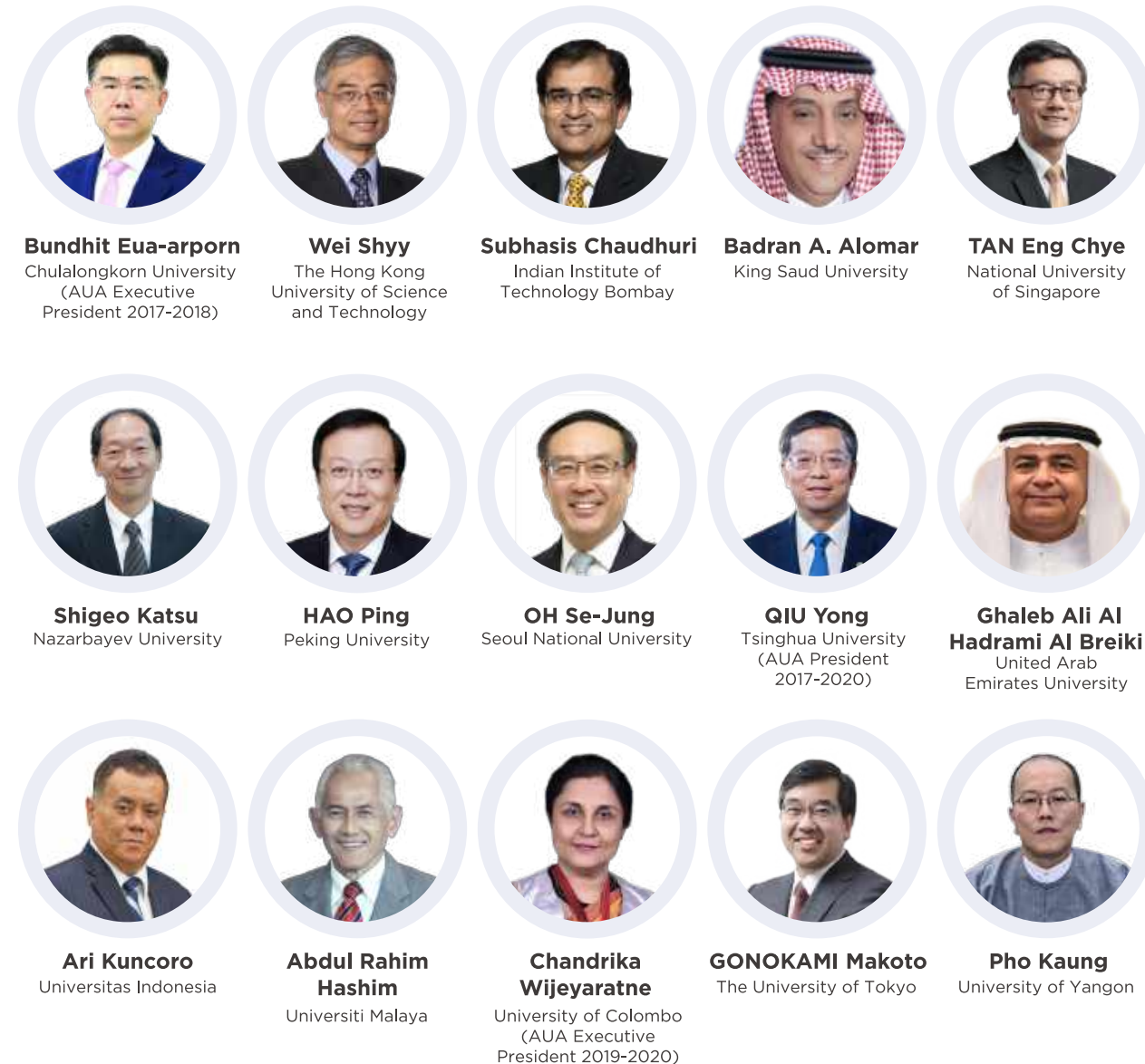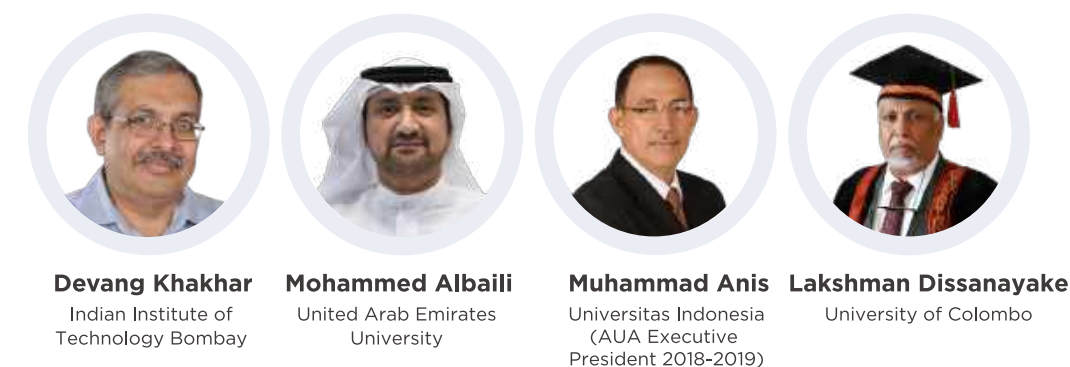(AHEO) Report released: "Creation
and Direction of AUA"

2018

April
AUA Secretariat voted by members
to be permanently hosted by
Tsinghua University

2019

AUA Board Members

Bundhit Eua-arporn
Chulalongkorn University
(AUA Executive
President 2017-2018)

Wei Shyy
The Hong Kong
University of Science
and Technology

Subhasis Chaudhuri
Indian Institute of
Technology Bombay

Badran A. Alomar
King Saud University

TAN Eng Chye
National University
of Singapore

Shigeo Katsu
Nazarbayev University

HAO Ping
Peking University

OH Se-Jung
Seoul National University

QIU Yong
Tsinghua University
(AUA President
2017-2020)

**Ghaleb Ali Al
Hadrami Al Breiki**
United Arab
Emirates University

Ari Kuncoro
Universitas Indonesia

**Abdul Rahim
Hashim**
Universiti Malaya

**Chandrika
Wijeyaratne**
University of Colombo
(AUA Executive
President 2019-2020)

GONOKAMI Makoto
The University of Tokyo

Pho Kaung
University of Yangon

Former AUA Board Members (2019-2020)

Devang Khakhar
Indian Institute of
Technology Bombay

Mohammed Albaili
United Arab Emirates
University

Muhammad Anis
Universitas Indonesia
(AUA Executive
President 2018-2019)

Lakshman Dissanayake
University of Colombo

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:
• Public Health
• Resources & Environment
• Information Technology

The four modules are:
• Mobility (Students, Scholars and Staff)
• Research Collaboration
• Strategy & Policy
• Asian Higher Education Outlook Report (AHEO)

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

Mobility
- Students
- Scholars
- Staff

Strategy & Policy

• **Public Health**
• **Resources & Environment**
• **Information Technology**

Research Collaboration

Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)

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 mobility among its members. Through increased mobility, we can easily share our educational resources with one another. Mobility is also the prerequisite of many other forms of collaboration. Through mobility 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 Program, and the AUA Staff Exchange Program.

02
Mobility

Mobility Programs 2019-2020

Student Mobility

AUA Youth Forum	AUA Youth Forum 2019: Wellbeing Beyond Health	University of Colombo	November 2019
AUA Asia Deep Dive Program	AUA Asia Deep Dive Program 2020: United Arab Emirates - Past, Present, Future	United Arab Emirates University	January 2020
Overseas Study Programs	AUA Student Competition: Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges	Nazarbayev University	June 2019
	Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	July 2019
	Sun, Society, Sustainability	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay	December 2019
	Design Thinking for Urban Challenges: Big Data Approach	Seoul National University	January 2020
Arts and Sports Event	AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities Through Arts 2020	Universiti Malaya	January 2020

Scholar Mobility

AUA Scholars Award Program	15 Members	June 2019-March 2020

Staff Mobility

AUA Staff Exchange Program	14 Members	June 2019-March 2020

Student Mobility

AUA Youth Forum
The AUA Youth Forum (AUAYF) is a flagship program organized and hosted annually by the Executive Presidency. 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 Asia Deep Dive Program
The AUA Asia Deep Dive Program (ADDP) provides opportunities for students to have an immersive cultural experience in the country of the host university. The two week program aims to deepen students' understanding of Asia's various cultures and societies in order to improve communication and foster deeper cross cultural exchange and cooperation. This program also strives to broaden the minds of students and nurtures them to become empowered, global minded citizens.

Overseas Study Programs
Overseas Study Programs bring together students of similar academic interests to attend intensive short term courses hosted by member institutions. Each program centers around an AUA theme aiming to broaden students' knowledge of the selected disciplines and help them gain valuable insights and increased cultural savviness through the exchange of academic ideas with peers and professors of different countries.

Arts and Sports Events
Many AUA member universities have vibrant arts and sports communities. Artistic and sports education constitute an important part of university education as well as campus life. *Arts and Sports Events* allow students to showcase their talents and share cross cultural experiences with one another. Through artistic endeavors and sportsmanship, these programs help students grow into creative and independent thinkers.

7
student programs

6
host universities

188
student participants

AUA Youth Forum 2019: Wellbeing Beyond Health
University of Colombo, 25-29 November 2019

45 students

11 universities

The third AUA Youth Forum was hosted by AUA Executive Presidency 2019-2020 University of Colombo (UoC) from 25-29 November 2019. A total of 45 students from eleven universities took part in the program including Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Nazarbayev University, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, Universitas Indonesia, Universiti Malaya, University of Yangon, The University of Tokyo and UoC. The theme of the program was "Wellbeing Beyond Health".

Increasing Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) in Asia is leading to an unacceptably high burden of premature death and disability with escalating health, economic and social consequences in AUA member countries. In order to tackle these health challenges, the theme "Wellbeing Beyond Health" was selected. The theme aligns with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 3 "Good Health and Wellbeing". The interactive sessions of the Youth Forum focused on how the Asian youth can take on the leadership required to modify human behavioral risk factors and their social, environmental and

commercial determinants to prevent NCDs (including cardiovascular diseases, cancers, diabetes and chronic lung diseases). There was a special emphasis on identifying unexplored future challenges created by the rise of the digital age and how youth can define and achieve "wellbeing" at individual, family, community and policy levels. The program also promoted social and cultural exchange, using Sri Lankan traditional healing, music, drama, dance, art and sports in hands-on skill sessions conducted in an eco-friendly, natural environment.

The Youth Forum began with the inauguration ceremony featuring a speech by the AUA Executive President and Vice Chancellor of UoC, Prof. Chandrika Wijeyaratne on the significance of the Youth Forum as a platform to foster change-makers and young leaders. Dr. Olivia Nieveras, WHO Sri Lanka Public Health Administrator, delivered a keynote address on behalf of Dr Razia Pendse, WHO Sri Lanka Representative. Dr Nieveras spoke of the important role youth play in achieving the SDGs, stating that "the young people of today are the 'SDG generation' who will experience the success

or failure of the 2030 Agenda."

Promoting physical activity was a cross-cutting theme of the AUAYF 2019, comprising daily sessions of physical activity. One day of the Youth Forum, which took place at UoC's Sri Palee Campus, focused on empowering youth to incorporate physical activity into their lives. The

day had an engaging agenda, which included a nature hike and tree-planting. There were also cultural elements, including traditional Sri Lankan dance, drumming lessons and a talent show.

The AUA Youth Forum 2019 concluded with innovative, creative and inspiring presentations delivered by teams of participants on ways to combat the most pressing issues of their generation, such as climate change and the need for better mental health services for young people. A panel of experts, including Vice Chancellor Wijeyaratne and other senior figures from UoC and WHO, provided insight and advice to participants on how to build upon and implement the presented ideas.

Students arriving for the opening ceremony

A performance of traditional Sri Lankan dance during the opening ceremony
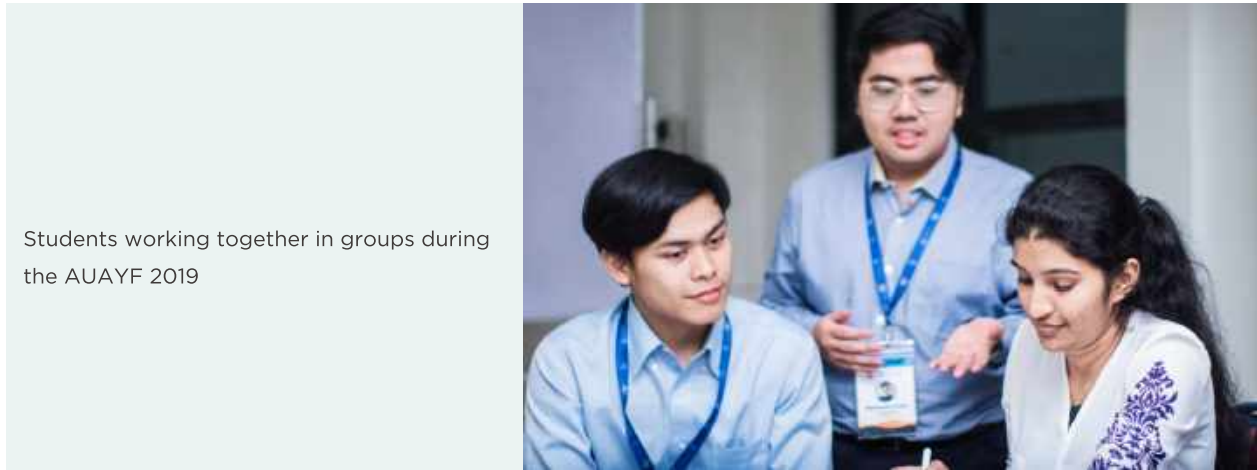
Students working together in groups during the AUAYF 2019

Participants attending lectures during the AUAYF 2019

Students participating in discussions on the program theme

AUA Asia Deep Dive Program 2020: United Arab Emirates - Past, Present, Future

United Arab Emirates University, 18-30 January 2020

From 18-30 January 2020, the AUA Asia Deep Dive Program (ADDP) 2020 was hosted by United Arab Emirates University (UAEU). Twenty nine students from ten AUA member universities - Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, King Saud University, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, United Arab Emirates University, Universiti Malaya, Universitas Indonesia, and The University of Tokyo - took part in the program themed "United Arab Emirates - Past, Present, Future".

Not long ago, the Arabian Peninsula was inhabited by proud and resourceful desert-dwelling nomadic tribes, and settled with fishing villages and date farms. Today, the UAE is a major international transport, communications, trade, and industrial center as well as one of the most modern, stable and safe countries in the world. Historical study incorporates a variety of objects, diverse sets of evidence, and examination from multiple, often conflicting viewpoints. Analysis of contemporary developments is not straightforward, and future predictions are both uncertain and reliant on risk and creativity.

During the two-week program, UAEU students and students from different AUA countries formed groups, representing a variety of Asian cultures coming together to embark on a journey of historical, contemporary and future thinking. The different backgrounds of students provided varieties in thought and encouraged diverse questioning and challenges within teams, all the while fostering a collaborative team spirit. Each group focused on one of the themes relevant to the development of the UAE: **diversity, equality and cohesion; preservation and innovation; security and sustainability; health, justice and education; infrastructure, technology and economy; vision, opportunity and leadership.** Experts were on hand to deliver 30 hours of lectures to participants, providing a strong academic foundation and expert input on all the program's related themes. At the end of the program, groups presented their interpretation of how the chosen theme has been important in the past, is relevant right now, and will be significant in the future.

Group photo of ADDP 2020 participants

29 students

10 universities

Cultural tours and exploration were also a huge part of the program, with students embarking on field trips to some of the most important landmarks in the UAE such as the Sheikh Zayed Mosque and the Lourve in Abu Dhabi, and the Burj Khalifa and Museum of the Future in Dubai. During these tours, students and teams applied their unique perspectives to understand in greater depth the challenges and opportunities involved in creating these world-cities and their success.

An abundance of social activities took place during the program. From Arabic lessons to quizzes and competitions, various activities encouraged students to learn and share each other's culture and language. The event also allowed students to showcase what they gained from interactions with each other. On one of the final evenings, a cultural night was held for students to demonstrate something significant about their culture such as a costume, dance, music, food, an artefact, story or piece of media.

Students visiting Sheikh Zayed Mosque in Abu Dhabi

ADDP 2020 participants during a nighttime trip to the desert

Students at the top of the Burj Khalifa in Dubai

Students after completing their final presentations

Participants visiting the Falcon Hospital in Abu Dhabi

These multi-cultural experiences are the hallmark of the UAE (past, present and future), demonstrating the challenges and opportunities that UAE residents have in living together in this society. Through student exchanges and short-term study programs like this, AUA offers an important platform to bring diverse sets of people together to break down cultural barriers through shared academic and cultural experiences. The AUA Asia Deep Dive Program in particular contributes significantly to fostering multicultural friendships among the Asian youth - our next generation of leaders. These deep connections will have a great impact on shaping the future of collaboration and ensuring harmony among societies in Asia and across the world.

Testimonials

"I was so happy with this program because I learnt a lot. I learnt to walk in the shoes of the Emiratis. I learnt about UAE's history, government, people and cultural heritage." Thiofanty, UI

"I have got to know the UAE and its wonderful people in depth, and every one of you have given me inspiration I will never forget." Toshihiro, UTokyo

"For two weeks I was able to learn so much, not only in academic terms, but also in terms of cultural diversity, breaking stereotype after stereotype with every encounter with students and participants from across Asia." Jun, SNU

"I was totally touched by your acts of kindness. Every UAEU volunteer who helped me was so nice and sweet." Ke, THU

Overseas Study Programs
Testimonials

"It was really interesting to learn about different cultures and different marketing styles through preparation for the group presentation and new topics such as machine listening and digital humanities."
Bingjie, NUS (DTUC @ SNU)

"DTUC program is a great platform to gather the best students from the best universities in Asia so they could communicate and share their ideas on important topics such as AI and big data. It gave me more ideas about these topics and made me think."
Dana, NU (DTUC @ SNU)

"During the competition I realized that despite all the differences in natures of governments and level of development in these countries, we all face similar governance challenges pertaining to transparency, accountability and participation, and the youth across these countries are demanding a better world."
Yatin, IITB (AUA Student Competition @ NU)

"I have learned how to cooperate with students of another culture. I have also learned how to make proper presentations/projects, since it was my first experience."
Yerkezhan, NU (AUA Student Competition @ NU)

"Joining the I2E Program at IIT Bombay was one of the best decisions that I've ever made in my life. I didn't just get the chance to learn about innovation & entrepreneurship from the Indian startup practitioners and lecturers, but I also got the opportunity to meet and interact with brilliant students from the universities all over Asia."
Raihana, UI (I2E @ IITB)

"The program motivated me to start improving my ideas, never give up and taught me how to plan very well for my start-up, how to find people who care about my ideas and incubate them, and also how to avoid some mistakes."
Zainab, UAEU (I2E @ IITB)

"I got to deeply know the culture and industry of India. With the teamwork between students from different countries, I have developed my communication skills and also increased my knowledge about the different opinions of energy between different countries."
Aoshuang, THU (3S @ IITB)

"I was excited to see how different laboratories work together to produce solar panels and how the work is divided between them. I also loved the practical approach used in this program because it greatly assisted in understanding."
Zere, NU (3S @ IITB)

GOOD GOVERNANCE IN THE 21ST CENTURY AND ITS CHALLENGES
June 17-22, 2019
Nur-Sultan City, Kazakhstan

20 students
5 universities

AUA Student Competition: Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges
Nazarbayev University, 17-21 June 2019

On 17-21 June 2019, Nazarbayev University (NU) hosted an AUA Student Competition themed "Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges". The AUA Student Competition served as a platform for creative and responsible youth to discuss global issues and jointly develop innovative solutions to a certain policy problem.

In the age of globalization and technological disruption, it is important to be aware of global contexts when making decisions and to study the problem from different perspectives, considering social, economic, environmental and other relevant factors. To be part of these global changes and remain up-to-date, NU hosted a diverse group of 20 undergraduate and graduate students to participate in the competition from five AUA member universities: The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB), National University of Singapore (NUS), Seoul National University (SNU), and NU.

The objectives of the competition were to help students enhance their skills in communicating their ideas to their team members, opponents and wider audience as well as negotiate within a

team, learn to utilize the strengths of each team member and develop the most optimal solution within a limited period of time.

The NU faculty provided a series of special lectures on **stakeholder analysis, governance in innovation, strategic thinking, and communication strategy.** Brainstorming sessions and debates mediated by professors helped students look both at the problem they were working on and its solution from different angles. Students felt that the lectures and topics were eye-opening. One student mentioned, *"The professors from diverse disciplinary backgrounds were very helpful in giving diverse approaches to good governance."*

Over the course of the week, the teams took the evenings to prepare their final projects and presentations. After their hard work, teams delivered their presentations on the last day of the program and winners of the competition were announced. Teams from HKUST and SNU were the winners of the competition in undergraduate and graduate categories respectively. Team "Orange" from HKUST presented the topic of better governance on

Winning Teams

Undergraduate category

THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Team Orange: Better Governance On Cross-Boundary Water Resources Management in Central Asia

Graduate category

SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Team R4R: Good Governance through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Model

cross-boundary water resources management in Central Asia. Team "R4R" from SNU analyzed the effective ways good governance could tackle refugee issues in host countries through collaborative action from state and civil society.

The competition was a great learning experience for participants. Michael, an undergraduate student from Team "Orange", found the experience eye-opening, allowing him to recognize the importance of factors that seem to be irrelevant but actually play an important role in policy-making. His team mate Angel found the competition rewarding, as it allowed her to exchange ideas with people from diverse backgrounds and experience different perspectives.

As the first AUA Overseas Study Program held in 2019-2020, the AUA Student Competition was a great success, delivering exceptional learning outcomes as well as facilitating the diverse sharing of knowledge among students of AUA member universities.

Students taking part in team building activities at NU's Athletic Center

Students during the lectures and class debates

Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 1-7 July 2019

Students visiting the Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship in IITB

Students and IITB professors at the I2E program inauguration

18 students

9 universities

Students visiting the Proof of Concept Studio in IITB

Students attending the gala dinner

The AUA Overseas Study Program "Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship (I2E)" was hosted at Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) in Mumbai, India from 1-7 July 2019. A diverse set of 18 student participants from nine AUA member universities took part in the program: Nazarbayev University, University of Colombo, Seoul National University, The University of Tokyo, Universitas Indonesia, United Arab Emirates University, Universiti Malaya, University of Yangon and IITB. Through a series of interactive sessions, activities and field trips, I2E provided firsthand exposure of the Indian business context as well as introducing participants to concepts of innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship.

A curated set of classes were delivered by subject experts from IITB as well as external professionals from relevant fields. Topics covered included **business fundamentals, new product development, marketing, value proposition, entrepreneurial finance, communication and business plan pitching.**

Over the last decade, IITB has created a vibrant innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem on

Students attending a lecture

campus. Various centers at IITB for applied research comprise the core components of its ecosystem. Examples include the **Entrepreneurship Cell**, a student body that motivates students and encourages enterprise development. Another important center is the **Desai Sethi Centre for Entrepreneurship** which provides academic inputs through courses about innovation, entrepreneurship and business skills.

A major highlight of the program was visiting these IITB centers for applied research. Students visited the **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship**, a premier technology business incubator hosted by IITB since 2004. They also

visited the **Proof-of-Concept Centre**, a center designed to support students to convert their ideas into tangible products and services through rapid prototyping, performance management, and application testing and validation facilities. Participants also paid a visit to the **Tata Centre for Technology and Design** which aims to develop solutions to challenges faced by resource-constrained communities within India and globally using an end to end innovation approach. To consolidate their knowledge and experiences, students visited the **Tinkerers' Lab** on the second last day of the program. Tinkerers' Lab is a 24x7 technical facility open to all IITB students, encouraging them to go beyond their curriculum and explore technology as a hobby and innovate to build creative ideas into actual engineering products.

Industrial visits were also planned. Participants visited a branch of Tata Consultancy Services, an Indian IT company with a global footprint, and a startup from IITB - Drona Aviation Pvt. Ltd., a hobby drone company that operates out of an apartment. They also visited one large MNC and a start-up to understand the differences in scale and method of operations.

During the action-packed week, the participants

worked in teams of three for their assignment. They were required to develop business plans on a product idea, applying the knowledge gained from the classroom sessions and various visits. Creativity and entrepreneurship were observed – students came up with interesting problem statements in diverse areas such as freshness of fruit and vegetables, banking, housing, sludge

management and job hunting. On the last day, the students went on a city tour, experiencing the history of India's financial capital Mumbai.

Based on the experience and feedback of the participants, the AUA program was well-received, and advanced the objectives of fostering entrepreneurship through a multi-cultural learning environment and promoting cultural exchanges among the students. In the long run, such programs develop a deeper understanding of Asia's different cultures among the students and help them evolve into responsible global citizens.

A lecture on day one of the S3 program

Students on a lab tour in IITB

Sun, Society, Sustainability

Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, 9-15 December 2019

The AUA Overseas Study Program "Sun, Society, Sustainability (S3)" was successfully hosted by Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) from 9-15 December 2019 in Mumbai and Madhya Pradesh, India. The seven day program was attended by 14 students from seven AUA member universities: National University of Singapore, Nazarbayev University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, Universiti Malaya, The University of Tokyo and IITB. The program was organized by Solar Urja through Localization for Sustainability (SoULS). As a flagship program of IITB, SoULS has developed interventions built on the foundation of localization for providing clean, efficient, affordable and reliable energy access to the most rural households all across India.

Students assembling the solar lamps

On the first day of the program, student participants, program organizers and senior leaders from IITB and the organizing SoULS team, attended the opening ceremony of the program. After the welcoming addresses, Principal Investigator of the SoULS project Prof. Chetan Singh Solanki set the tone for the program by demonstrating the great challenges faced by global societies in light of the oncoming climate crisis. He highlighted the importance of implementing long term, sustainable and impactful solutions - such as solar energy - to reduce the reliance on fossil fuels. Prof. Jayendran Venkateswaran, Principal Investigator of the SoULS project also delivered remarks to welcome students, emphasizing the importance of contributions from those of all disciplinary backgrounds to tackle issues of sustainable and renewable energy. Another key highlight of the opening ceremony was the "Pledge of Non Violence Towards the Environment", a pledge taken by all student participants to commit to protecting and serving the environment through conscious and concerted efforts.

For the first three days of the program, the students were based at IITB's campus and took part in a number of lectures about SoULS' various initiatives, as well as attending an inspiring

lecture delivered by Prof. Diana Urge-Vorstaz of the Central European University and Vice Chair of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Prof. Urge-Vorstaz presented on the current forecast of the climate crisis and available opportunities to keep the warming of global temperatures to under two degrees. Students also visited several key laboratories at IITB that are involved in the research and development of various aspects of solar energy technology.

A main highlight of the program was learning how to build solar study lamps from scratch. The solar study lamps project is a key initiative of the SoULS team, having already reached over 40,000 villages and 6.5 million households all across India. The project aims to provide a solar study lamp to every child in rural India as part of its 'Right to Light' mission. Students also received a demonstration of Solar PV cook stoves, another initiative of the SoULS team.

Students with their assembled lamps

All participants of the S3 program

Local media in Madhya Pradesh reported on the S3 program

14 students   **7** universities

Field Visit

During the second half of the program, students were based in Betul city in the state of Madhya Pradesh, 700 kilometers from Mumbai. Here, they met with local representatives of the SoULS team and the villagers to gain first-hand knowledge on how the projects are implemented at the local and ground level. It also helped students gain tangible insights into the broad impacts of the initiatives.

During their time in Betul, students visited Bharat Bharti Vidya Samiti School, where the SoULS project installed a solar cook stove to cook food for school students. They participated in a water conservation program in Sonaghati, Betul and visited Bancha, a "one of a kind" village. Bancha Village is the first place in India where the entire village is using solar cook stoves to prepare their food. The students also had opportunities to visit various cultural and historic sites. Local media was also on-site to report on the AUA students' visit and they conducted a number of brief interviews with participants.

After spending three days immersed in the rural setting, students returned to the IITB campus. On the final day of the program, students embarked on a city tour of Mumbai before preparing to make their way home.

Overall, the AUA program was a great success. Through the shared learning of pertinent topics of solar energy and climate change, a diverse set of students from across Asia came to work collaboratively towards tackling some of the most pressing environmental issues facing the world today.

Design Thinking for Urban Challenges: Big Data Approach

36 students

10 universities

Seoul National University, 11-19 January 2020

Group photo of all participants of DTUC in Seoul

Participants visiting Samsung D'light

Students receiving their Certificate of Achievement after completing their group presentation

Students during a visit to Namsan Tower in Seoul

Program backdrop signed by DTUC participants

DTUC participants enjoying some free time in Seoul

Due to the development of Information Technology (IT), the spread and use of handheld smart devices and the rapid development of Internet of Things (IoT) technology, an unimaginable amount of data has been gathered in the 21st century. To gain an understanding of the concept and characteristics of the fourth industrial revolution and the basic principles of big data artificial intelligence, Seoul National University (SNU) hosted an AUA Overseas Study Program themed "Design Thinking for Urban Challenges (DTUC): Big Data Approach". There was a huge attendance for the nine-day program with 36 students from ten AUA member universities taking part: Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, King Saud University, National University of Singapore, Nazarbayev University, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, University of Colombo and The University of Tokyo.

After arriving and settling in on SNU's campus, students were given the opportunity to make a short introduction of themselves. To set the tone for the program, students shared about megacities in their respective AUA countries and the problems these cities face. To learn more about various aspects related to the program theme, participants attended lectures on topics such as the **concept of the fourth industrial revolution, newly emerging forms of IT, principles of machine learning and machine listening, utilization of Virtual Reality (VR), Augmented Reality (AR), and Mixed Reality (MR), smart cities, utilizing big data in business, artificial intelligence and digital marketing.** Distinguished SNU professors from various university departments delivered the lectures during the program.
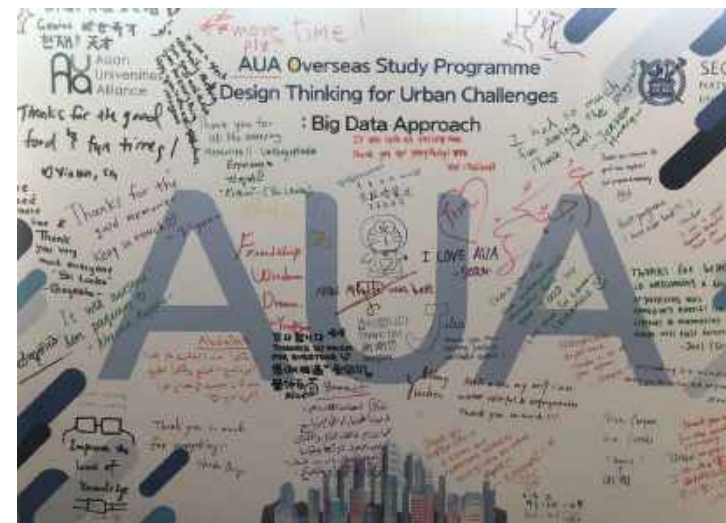
The learning was consolidated by numerous site visits to renowned Korean companies such as Samsung D'light, where participants could see how companies pursue innovation by utilizing big data artificial intelligence technology. Students also had the chance to experience VR, AR and MR during a visit to SKT, the biggest telecommunication company in Korea.

On the final day, groups working together delivered presentations that demonstrated the knowledge gained during the program. Topics of the group presentations were Smart Univer-city, Development of Unmanned Vehicle & Traffic Signal System, Smart Cities-Seoul, Smart Healthcare Heal-City, The Future of Seoul and QR Code Smart Food Systems. There was also time for fun leisure activities with students visiting key cultural spots in Seoul such as Namsan Tower, SM Town Museum and Coex Mall.

Having one of the largest turn outs of any AUA Overseas Study Program, DTUC was a great success. The theme of this program helps to advance the mission of AUA as it focuses around one of the key AUA themes for 2017-2020: Information Technology and one of the incoming AUA themes for 2020-2023: Artificial Intelligence and Data Science. In this age of rapid technological development and innovation, deep understanding and ethical utilization of big data technologies is key for future global growth and sustainability. Providing AUA students with the opportunity for in depth learning of this field creates long term and lasting impact across not only the Asian region but the world at large.

Group photo of participants during a cultural visit

Arts & Sports Event

AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities Through Arts 2020
Universiti Malaya, 15-21 January 2020

26 students

10 universities

AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities Through Arts 2020, was a one-week program designed to give participants a unique insight into a different facet of arts and culture in Malaysia. Hosted by Universiti Malaya (UM) from 15-21 January 2020, twenty six participants from ten AUA member universities took part in the program, including: Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, Universitas Indonesia, The University of Tokyo, University of Yangon and UM. Participants immersed themselves in the fascinating multi-ethnic community of Malaysia, where people of different religions and races live in a peaceful and harmonious society, which has in turn influenced its art, culture and cuisine.

The program was run by the ISC Global Buddies known as "Buddies", a group of mostly local UM students who volunteer to help the International Student Centre (ISC) to run most of their activities.

The first lecture was on the "Introduction of Malaysian Arts & Culture" by the curator of UM Art Gallery, Dr. Hazlin Anita Zainal Abidin. The lecture started with the background of Malaysian culture and lifestyle followed by the influence of different races on the arts. The second lecture about "Unity in Diversity" was given by Dr. Liyana from the Asia Europe Institute. The lecture examined the breakdown of the diversity and how the unity happened in Malaysia. At the end of this lecture, the participants were able to understand how a multiracial and multireligious country was formed and maintained.

In addition to the lectures, some of the highlights of the program included several cultural activities such as batik painting, lantern making, a rangoli designing workshop and henna designing. Students also went on local tours to places of cultural and historical importance such as the Masjid Negara (National Mosque) where they learned about Islam, and Melaka, a historical city which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

On the final day, participants had to showcase their group projects on lantern making. The winner received a token of appreciation and the lantern was showcased at the art gallery for public viewing. The closing ceremony was officiated by UM Associate Vice Chancellor (International), Prof. Dr. Yong Zulina Zubairi and all participants received the certificate of participation.

The knowledge and understanding gained during this program is important for the current, complex new era of globalization. By appreciating the different arts and cultures of diverse communities around the globe, AUA students can break down cultural barriers with one another, increase communication and become well rounded individuals, equipped with an understanding of Asia and a global outlook.

Scenes from the program's lectures

Participants on a local tour of Kuala Lumpur

Students taking part in a cultural activity

AUA Scholars Award Program

In 2018, AUA launched the AUA Scholars Award Program (AUASAP), a flagship project aimed at boosting international research linkages and academic advancements. By facilitating AUA members to host scholars from other member universities for a duration of two weeks, AUASAP provides a steadfast platform for meaningful academic exchanges and synergy between the 15 AUA members.

The AUASAP has allowed AUA member universities to conduct comprehensive research activities, establish academic cooperation and enable visiting scholars to participate in a 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 among Asia's leading universities, increased learning of Asia's rich and diverse cultural heritage is also an important part of the shared experience. Scholars and experts serve as cultural ambassadors for AUA's long term vision of promoting academic exchanges and mutual understanding. As Asian economies progress and cultivate unique expertise through programs such as the AUASAP, the AUA is poised to be a trendsetter in Asian and global higher education.

The AUASAP has quickly become a huge hit among scholars of member universities, owing to the unique academic and cultural exposure the AUA Scholars bring back to their home universities. In its second year of operation (2019-2020), the AUASAP received more than 100 applications, with 59 scholars selected to carry out their visits to host universities in a diverse range of fields ranging from physics and bioengineering, to political science and education. In the first year of the program (2018-2019), 29 AUA Scholars received the Award, using the opportunity to expand perspectives in the classroom and initiate conferences and research collaborations with other AUA member universities.

As the AUASAP becomes increasingly competitive in the coming years, we are confident that this will become the starting point of long term, deep rooted and more frequent academic interactions between AUA members, and Asian scholars in general. With the success of the program thus far, AUA looks forward to more exchanges and improvements in the research capacity of Asia's leading higher education institutions.

Overview of AUASAP 2018-2020

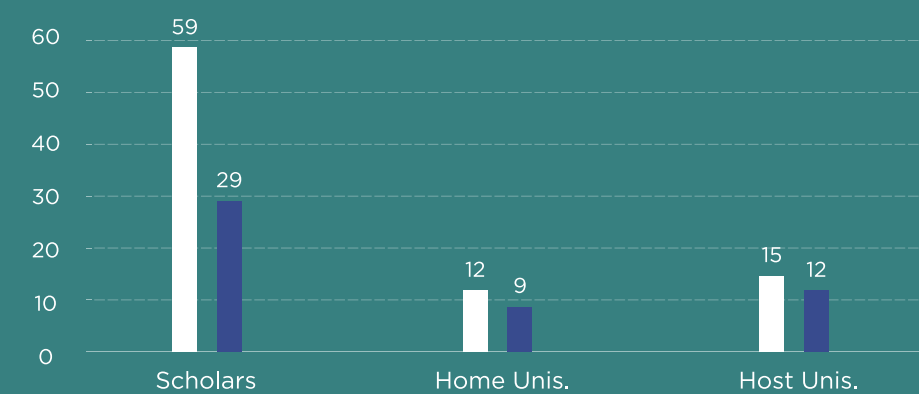|	Scholars	Home Universities	Host Universities
2019-2020	**59** Scholars	**12** Home Universities	**15** 15 Host Universities
2018-2019	**29** Scholars	**9** Home Universities	**12** 15 Host Universities

Overview of AUASAP 2018-2020

Fig. 1: Overview of AUASAP 2018-2020

● 2019-2020   ● 2018-2019
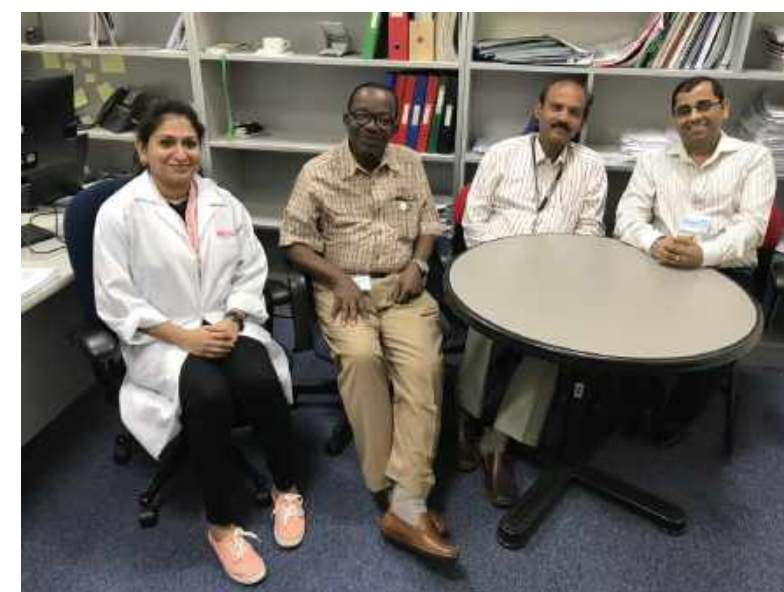
AUA Scholars 2019-2020

AUA Scholar	Home Uni.	Host Uni.	Host Professor
Alhamid, Muhammad Idrus	UI	NU	Zhao, Yong
*Alhoshani, Ali	KSU	UAEU	Al-Ramadi, Basel
Alotaibi, Moureq	KSU	UAEU	Al-Ramadi, Basel
*Antarianto, Radiana Dhewayani	UI	KSU	Mahmood, Ameer
Azhgaliyeva, Dina	NUS	NU	Bakenov, Zhumabay
Baek, Seung Joon	SNU	CU	Tencomnao, Tewin
Balakrishnan, Vishalache	UM	UoC	Jayakody, Jask
Bilyalov, Darkhan	NU	UM	Othman, Juliana
Chang, Chin Sung	SNU	UTokyo	Ikeda, Hiroshi
*Chen, Chao	THU	HKUST	Sun, Jianwei
Dissanayake, Lakshman	UoC	THU	Wang, Youqiang
*Dong, Jiyang	NU	HKUST	Lee, Yonghoon
Ha, Jung-Hwa	SNU	NUS	Teerawichitchainan, Bussarawan
Hamzah, Nor Aishah	UM	KSU	Almohisen, Amal
Hasanah, Uswatun	UI	UTokyo	Arima, Jun
He, Dehua	THU	UY	Soe Soe Than
Ismail, Noor Azina	UM	THU	Cheng, Feng
Ismail, Siti Zubaidah	UM	UI	Susetyo, Heru
Jiang, Shaohai	NUS	PKU	Xu, Jing
Kashkynbayev, Ardak	NU	UAEU	Rihan, Fathalla Ali
Khan, Azizuddin	IITB	NU	Polat, Filiz
Kim, Yoonhee	UTokyo	SNU	Kim, Ho
Lee, Woojin	NU	UTokyo	Wakihara, Toru
Li, Qiang	THU	UTokyo	Hibiya, Toshiyuki
*Li, Tiefu	THU	UM	Ibrahim, Fatimah
*Liu, Wanli	THU	NUS	Zhang, Yongliang
*Lu, Jia	THU	CU	Tsukamoto, Pijitra
Mohamed, Islam Mohamed Saadeldin	KSU	SNU	Lee, Byeong Chun
Mohd Sabri, Mohd Faizul	UM	NU	Bakenov, Zhumabay
Mohd Saleh, Mohd Faiz	UM	UI	Udhiarto, Arief
Mohd, Nuruol Syuhadaa	UM	IITB	Shriwastav, Amritanshu; Mukherji, Suparna
Nelson, Eric	HKUST	IITB	George, Siby K.
Ng, Boon Kwee	UM	HKUST	Yarime, Masaru
Ong, Hwai Chyuan	UM	CU	Wattanavichien, Kanit
Othman, Mohamadariff	UM	KSU	Vettikalladi, Hamsakutty
Paramasivam, Donnie Adams	UM	CU	Kulophas, Dhirapat
Raaj, Ramsankaran	IITB	THU	Long, Di
Ramadhan, Choky Risda	UI	NUS	Whalen-Bridge, Helena
Ratanavaraporn, Juthamas	CU	NUS	Kanchanawong, Pakorn
*Ravana, Sri Devi	UM	NUS	Chua, Tat-Seng

AUA Scholar	Home Uni.	Host Uni.	Host Professor
*Saltanat, Akhmetova	NU	PKU	Wu, Jiewei
Sew, Jyh Wee	NUS	UM	Yoong, David Soon Chye
Siddiqi, Nikhat Jamal	KSU	IITB	Patankar, Swati
Srivastava, Sanjeeva	IITB	UAEU	Emerald, Starling
Sun, Fei	HKUST	THU	Zhu, Ting
Suragan, Durvudkhan	NU	PKU	Wang, Baoxiang
Tambunan, Maria	UI	SNU	Yoon, Ji-Hyun
Tee, Clarence Augustine TH	UM	PKU	Zhang, Guo Yi
Tencomnao, Tewin	CU	SNU	Surh, Young-Joon
Toh, Wei Seong	NUS	UM	Zaman, Tunku Kamarul
Tsakalerou, Mariza	NU	UoC	Dissanayake, Kumudinei
Van Duffel, Siegfried	NU	NUS	Nardin, Terry
Vasa, Parinda	IITB	UTokyo	Yamanouchi, Kaoru
Wang, Yi	NUS	CU	Kiatpongsan, Sorapop
Wang, Ying	THU	SNU	Kwak, Keumjoo
Xu, Jing	THU	SNU	Cho, Kyu-Jin
Yan, Ning	NUS	THU	Li, Jun
*Zhao, Yong	NU	UI	Alhamid, Idrus
Zhu, Ting	THU	HKUST	Sun, Fei

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*Due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19, these candidates have extended the validity of their visits until 30 September 2020.

AUA Scholars 2019-2020

Staff Mobility

AUA Staff Exchange Program

Since the onset of the AUA in April 2017, increased mobility and enhanced exchanges between member universities has been at the forefront of the AUA mission. AUA strongly advocates for meaningful and frequent exchanges between staff members to boost prospects of cooperation and deepen understanding of existing programs as well as operational and managerial procedures between member institutions. In order to propel the mission forward, the AUA Staff Exchange Program (AUASEP) was developed as a mobility program specifically for the staff of AUA member universities. Mobility of students, scholars and staff is one of the four foundational pillars of the AUA Framework 2017-2020.

Investing in staff plays a pivotal role in the success of educational institutions' adaptation to new global trends. The AUASEP was launched in 2018 to enhance communication between staff of AUA member universities through a week-long immersive visit at another AUA member institution or the AUA Secretariat. These visits help provide a platform for exchanging best practices, enriching knowledge, and improving coordination and mutual understanding between and among AUA members. The AUASEP has a knock on effect to other areas of mobility with a number of visits resulting in the establishment of new student and scholar initiatives such as sports and cultural activities and collaboration among AUA libraries.

The AUASEP also serves to strengthen the bond between the AUA Secretariat and staff of the member universities, facilitating the proposal of new ideas while nurturing lasting friendships in the process. With the success of this initiative, AUA aims to set a precedent for the importance of staff exchanges in the success of higher education. As AUA moves forward, the AUASEP serves as a noteworthy platform to expedite increased mobility and greater cooperation among member universities.

Overview of AUASEP 2018-2020

|	Exchange Staff	Home Universities	Home Offices/ Departments	Host Institutions	Host Offices/ Departments
2019-2020	15	10	14	12	14
2018-2019	12	10	11	7	8

Overview of AUASEP 2018-2020
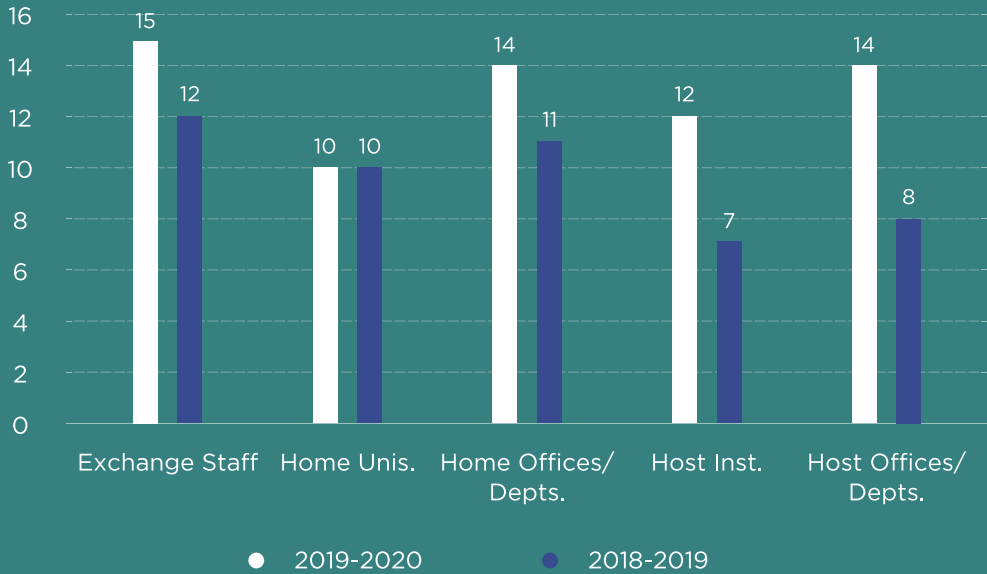
- 2019-2020
- 2018-2019

AUA Exchange Staff 2019-2020

AUA Exchange Staff	Home University	Host Institution
Assylbek, Yerbolat	NU	UAEU
Khin Mar Cho	UY	CU
Fadzli, Siti Salwati	UM	UI
Haththotuwa, Gamage Nishadhi Dimalka	UoC	PKU
Kim, Yoori	SNU	CU
King, Vigneshree	UM	UoC
Ma, Tin Yan Michelle	HKUST	SNU
Mukaimachi, Saori	UTokyo	IITB
Nagwekar, Hrushikesh	IITB	UM
Ni'mah, Fitriyatun	UI	NUS
Nurtazina, Dana	NU	UTokyo
Perera, Kalhari	UoC	AUA Secretariat
Ramasamy, Prabhakaran	IITB	NU
Shah, Sanjay	IITB	PKU
*Song, Mengting	THU	NU

*Due to the outbreak of novel coronavirus COVID-19, this candidate has extended the validity of her visit until 30 September 2020.
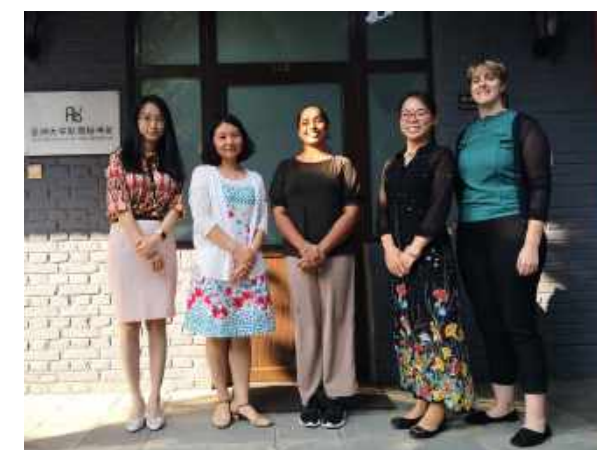
Each year, AUA supports its member institutions to hold academic conferences on topics drawn from the AUA themes. The conferences aim to bring together peer scholars from AUA member institutions to meet, share and discuss their research of a particular academic domain. AUA also supports member institutions to develop joint research initiatives as well as a document delivery service among libraries of member institutions.

03

Research Collaboration

Academic Conferences

Communication of Mass Culture between China and Other Asian Countries in the 21st Century

Peking University, 23-24 November 2019

The International Conference on the "Communication of Mass Culture between China and Other Asian Countries in the 21st Century", co-sponsored by the Research Center of Eastern Literature and School of Foreign Languages of Peking University and with the support of AUA, was held at Peking University from 23-24 November 2019. The conference was attended by 21 scholars from nine AUA member universities: Chulalongkorn University, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Nazarbayev University, Peking University, Seoul National University, Tsinghua University, Universiti Malaya, University of Colombo and University of Yangon; as well as scholars from five non-AUA universities: Ateneo de Manila University (Philippines), Royal Academy of Cambodia (Cambodia), Beijing Foreign Studies University, Xi'an International Studies University, and Fudan University (China).

The conference aimed to explore Asian society and mass culture, the authors and works of Asian mass culture and the image of China in Asian mass culture. A total of twenty papers were selected as the conference articles. According to the themes of the papers, the organizing committee set up three panel sessions for this conference: **Asian Society and Culture, Communication and Media, and International Relations and Cultural Exchange.**

The opening ceremony of the conference was presided over by Prof. Wu Jiewei, Chairman of the conference and Deputy Dean of the School of Foreign Languages, Peking University. He introduced the preparatory process of the conference, the composition of participants, the theme, and extended his heartfelt welcome to them. He hoped that the conference would promote people's understanding of the cultural links among Asian countries, promote the links between Chinese and foreign scholars, and strengthen the building of the academic community under the framework of AUA.

Asian Society and Culture

The first panel session on Asian Society and Culture was chaired by Prof. Ranjan K. Panda from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. The session, held on the morning of 23 November, saw participants deliver speeches on topics such as comparative study on Myanmar and Chinese festivals, the conception of the universe in China and India, films about Indian women, and Philippine short stories and post-colonial films, demonstrating the cultural ties between Asian countries and the rich personalities of their respective cultures.

A delegate participating in discussion during the conference

Two of the delegates during the conference

AUA Secretary Dr. Zhang Chuanjie (center) with conference delegates

Communication and Media

In the afternoon, the second panel session on Communication and Media took place. The session was held in two stages, chaired by Zoon Ahmed Khan, a researcher from the Institute of the Belt and Road Initiative, Tsinghua University, and Prof. Xu Hanyi, from the Department of Asian Studies, Beijing Foreign Studies University. Scholars attending the meeting spoke on the use of social media, Chinese education, the spread of Chinese food culture in Sri Lanka, the international documentary competition of Asian college students, and the spread and influence of Chinese films and TV dramas in Southeast Asia.

Vivid pictures and video materials were used to illustrate the important role of mass culture in China's foreign exchanges.

International Relations and Cultural Exchange

On the morning of 24 November, the panel session of International Relations and Cultural Exchange continued, chaired by Prof. Thida Aung from the Department of International Relations, University of Yangon. The participants delivered their speeches on topics such as China-Kazakhstan cultural ties, public diplomacy and China-Myanmar relations, the Belt and Road Initiative, and the spirit of the Silk Road in the era of globalization, highlighting the friendly exchanges and integration of civilizations between China and Asian countries.

A major feature of this conference was Asian scholars talking freely about Asian civilizations, highlighting the perspective of China and Asia. The participants come from different countries and have diverse academic backgrounds. They commented on the cultural phenomena in ancient, modern and contemporary East Asia, South Asia, Southeast Asia, Central Asia and other Asian regions from the perspectives of traditional culture, popular culture, literature, film, economy, trade, history and society.

In the closing ceremony, Prof. Wu Jiewei said the speeches and exchanges at the conference fully demonstrated participants' academic wisdom and responsibility as scholars. Asian countries have complex and diverse cultures, values and social backgrounds. Full understanding and communication among countries is an important factor for regional development. Scholars from all over the world have shown positive, objective and profound thinking through relevant studies, which has aroused academic resonance with each other. This has laid a solid foundation for building an academic community of Chinese and Asian cultural studies among Asian scholars in the future. The outcomes of this conference fully demonstrate that we have the ability and responsibility to further promote exchanges and interactions between Asian scholars, build more effective platforms for the formation of the academic community and contribute to the harmonious development of Asia.

16
AUA participants

9
AUA universities

Group photo of conference participants at PKU

Sustainable Universal Health Care Coverage

Chulalongkorn University, 27-28 January 2020

11
AUA participants

7
AUA universities

While social inequality is one of the biggest challenges faced by societies, an important strategy to raise the equality of countries is the development of a national health care system that focuses on both treatment and health promotion. In this context, Chulalongkorn University's College of Public Health Sciences organized an academic conference themed "Sustainable Universal Health Care Coverage", a relevant topic for the Asian region to be addressed through national multilateral efforts.

This international conference aimed to exchange resources and knowledge in order to enhance the academic strength of participants. The conference, partially supported by AUA, had several representatives from seven AUA member universities taking part: Chulalongkorn University (CU), National University of Singapore (NUS), Nazarbayev University (NU), Seoul National University (SNU), Universiti Malaya (UM), The University of Tokyo (UTokyo) and University of Yangon (UY).

Objectives of the conference
- Review the Universal Health Care Coverage (UHC) at global, regional, and national levels
- Examine the barriers and facilitators of UHC
- Determine strategies for the sustainability of UHC
- Promote an academic atmosphere and forum for exchanging and learning among representatives of universities in Asia

The conference began with the opening ceremony, attended by Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President of CU, who delivered the welcoming remarks. Following this, the first special lecture took place, entitled **"Concept of Universal Health**

Care Coverage (UHC) and Health Promotion in Thailand", delivered by Dr. Somsak Chunharas, President of The National Health Foundation of Thailand.

The first panel discussion, entitled **"UC System in Global, Regional and Country Level: Achievements and Challenges of UC"**, was attended by Prof. Sathirakorn Pongpanich, Dean, College of Public Health Sciences, CU; Prof. Than Tun Sein, Anthropology Department, UY; and Prof. Chan Chee Khoon, Visiting Scholar, Centre for Latin American Studies, UM. Prof. Pongpanich presented on Thailand's experience of UHC, including the history, current status and advantages and disadvantages. Prof. Than Tun Sein provided Myanmar's background in UCH, highlighting the four main strategies in the country. Prof. Khoon shared Malaysia's challenges of UHC, which include non-communicable diseases, state capitalism and migrant labor.

Two special lectures were held on the morning of the second day of the conference. The first, entitled **"Universal Health Care Coverage (UC) and its Impact to Health Equity, UC and Health Promotion"** was delivered by Prof. Teo Yik Ying, Dean, Saw Swee Hock School of Public Health, NUS, who discussed a three-dimensional model to consider when moving towards UHC. The second lecture, entitled **"Reform of UHC Program and its Sustainability"**, was delivered Prof. Siripen Supakankunti, Faculty of Economics, CU, who talked about UHC under three public health insurance schemes.

In the afternoon, two more panel discussions took place which focused on countries'

experiences of UHC and its sustainability. In the second panel discussion, Prof. Chang-yup Kim of SNU, discussed the new challenges in Korea, with the emerging socio-economic changes such as rapid aging and high rate of old age poverty, sustainability of premium based financing, depopulation in rural areas and market failure. Prof. Naoki Kondo, School of Public Health, UTokyo, provided insights on "Community Based Integrated Care", sharing Japan's experiences of UHC in a high aging society. Prof. Supakankunti also joined this panel discussion, highlighting that equity or fairness in service use, quality of service and financial protection are the fundamental concepts of UHC.

In the third panel discussion of the conference, Asst. Prof. Cynthia Chen from NUS, discussed the health expenditure of Singapore and provided an overview of health financing in the country. Prof. Tae-Jin Lee of SNU, discussed the financing of healthcare in Korea, including recent policies and challenges to sustainability. Dr. Vinod Kumar Pandey from NU discussed the National Health Protection Scheme in India and its benefits. Participants also had the opportunity to go on field visits in groups to places of interest such as the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration (BMA) Public Health Center No. 29 and Siripath Medical Primary Care Unit (PCU), a UHC public private partnership. At the end of the conference, groups presented their feedback from the field visits. The first group, who visited BMA, noticed the good social cohesion at the center and that the primary health center was quite large, with a high number of doctors and nurses providing many primary care services. The second group, who visited the PCU, highlighted the payment system of the PCU center which seemed to be very efficient, and the efforts taken to ensure greater social harmony across different communities.

Overall, the conference was a success and a necessary starting point for discussing and sharing on the pertinent topic of Universal Health Care Coverage. Although at present there is no one perfect or best model currently employed by different countries, in the future there may be new ideas and developments to ensure greater health equality for all people.

Group photo of conference delegates

CU President Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn delivering the welcome remarks

Conference delegate during a discussion

A panel discussion during the conference

Group photo of conference participants

AUA is dedicated to providing a platform that generates quality discussions on university strategies, policies, and practices. Through the *AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF)*, which is held annually during the AUA Summit, university leaders congregate for high-level dialogues on the development of strategic plans, the improvement of management systems, and to address problems related to higher education. AUA also encourages developing dialogues and platforms for exchange among senior managers and staff of specific departments with the purpose of sharing best practices.

04

Strategy & Policy

AUA Presidents Forum 2019

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology & Tsinghua University, 14 April 2019

The third AUA Presidents Forum (AUAPF), hosted by The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and jointly organized by Tsinghua University, was held on 14 April 2019. Comprising two sessions of panel discussions, the AUAPF was attended by more than 150 guests, including students and faculty from HKUST and the Tsinghua-Berkley Shenzhen Institute.

Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR), Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor attended the AUAPF as guest of honor and delivered a keynote address. Mrs. Lam outlined the unique role of Asia in the world's economy and highlighted the importance of universities in innovation and technological research, as well as in sustainable development. *"Your forum agenda, with sustainable development and technological entrepreneurship as central themes, is as ambitious and welcome as the AUA itself…What can our post-secondary institutions bring to these complex challenges, these compelling opportunities? The answers will go a long way towards realizing a flourishing and inclusive future for our universities, our economies and the Asian region as a whole",* said Mrs. Lam.

HKUST President Prof. Wei Shyy and AUA & Tsinghua University President Prof. QIU Yong also delivered an address during the AUAPF's opening ceremony. Prof. Shyy welcomed guests to HKUST and commended the efforts of AUA as a young regional Alliance. Drawing on the outcomes of the annual AUA Board Meeting, which was held the day before on 13 April, Prof.

Shyy said: *"I was very pleased to see the very substantial progress made on policy, sustainability, education outlook, student exchanges, faculty exchanges, and even more important in my view, staff exchanges. With that we really have a viable dimension of the joined efforts."*

In his speech, Prof. Qiu talked about the achievements of AUA over the past two years and reiterated the importance of the Presidents Forum as a platform for addressing challenges of higher education. Emphasizing the relevance of the themes of this year's Forum, Prof. Qiu said: *"This time, the forum will focus on two major issues confronting the world today. The first one is sustainable development and the second one is innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystems. As globalization has made openness the trend of future higher education, we believe universities will play an increasingly important role in addressing the most pressing global challenges of human kind".*

AUA & Tsinghua University President Prof. QIU Yong delivering an address

HKUST President Prof. Wei Shyy delivering the welcoming remarks

Mrs. Carrie Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR delivering a keynote address

Roles of Universities in the Sustainability Agenda

Keynote speakers Prof. Muhammad Anis, AUA Executive President 2018-2019 and Rector, Universitas Indonesia and Prof. QI Ye, Director, Institute for Public Policy, HKUST, opened up session one of the Presidents Forum. Moderated by Prof. Christine Loh, Chief Development Strategist, Division of Environment and Sustainability, HKUST, session one was themed "Roles of Universities in the Sustainability Agenda". Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University; Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost, Nazarbayev University; Prof. Kamila Ghazali, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Universiti

Malaya; Prof. Omar Kyaw, Pro Rector, University of Yangon; and Prof. Sawako Shirahase, Executive Vice President, The University of Tokyo, participated in the panel discussion. Drawing from their unique perspectives, discussants highlighted their universities' efforts in promoting sustainability as well as their contributions towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Referring to the contradiction between profit and green growth, panelists addressed questions from the audience, focusing on how to attract new graduates to work for sustainability, rather than profit.

Session one of the AUA Presidents Forum 2019

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

Prof. QI Ye, Director, Institute of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Prof. Ilesanmi Adesida, Provost, Nazarbayev University

Prof. Bundhit Eua-arporn, President, Chulalongkorn University

Keynote speeches

The role of universities is crucial if we are to achieve the SDGs. Universities provide the best knowledge education and platforms for common partnerships to create a sustainable future for all. We have an opportunity now to work together and collaborate on reducing inequality and poverty and improving our society's quality of life. At Universitas Indonesia, engagement in establishing a sustainable environment in our teaching, research and community engagement spans across our faculty and disciplines; policies of renewable energy, green buildings, recycling, water conservation and enlarging pedestrian and cycling paths are key steps towards achieving a green campus.

For too long, universities have passively taken the roles given to them by the market. It is time to make the choice and take the lead to prepare for the long and tough journey ahead of us. Today our universities, our students, should be the most important agents for change, and the most valuable assets to invest in for the future. Universities must adapt the curriculum to reflect the real needs of the world and the real demands of the students. A real top university grows from and holds a special place in the hearts and minds by serving the people, and more importantly, by providing moral and intellectual leadership in the world.

Panel discussion

There is an opportunity here for Asian universities and governments to take the lead and deliver practical examples to the community on how to contribute towards worldwide sustainability. To help change society, universities should train students to acquire critical thinking, have an interdisciplinary mindset, and be skilled at communication. We have to integrate matters of climate change and environmental sustainability into the classroom. At Nazarbayev University, there are common core subjects which students of all disciplines are required to take. If we're going to produce leaders, policy makers and entrepreneurs that will change societies, they must learn how to collaborate across disciplines and be cultural citizens of the world.

An important element of driving sustainable development is mindful people. The university has a vital role to train the younger generation of students and faculty to be key role models for their families and for society. Sustainability activities should not be limited within the university; there should be outreach to society and cooperation among the private sector, local communities, and the university to create change and action. Chulalongkorn University has initiated a zero waste program - reducing use of plastic bags, campaigning for biodegradable cups and encouraging students to bring their own water bottles on campus. We conduct zero waste campaigns outside of the university and surrounding communities start to apply it as well.

We need to respect the various value systems in Asia and think about what sustainability means within our own cultures. We should look at how we do things in Asia; what kinds of strengths we have and learn from one another. Universiti Malaya has established an eco-campus blueprint plan for sustainability, a campus initiative that involves students all the way up to top management; everyone is involved in the change and how it is managed. It's hard for students to run away from these action plans because it's a campus wide initiative and all levels of the community are involved.

The university has an important part to play in leading local and regional sustainable development through education and research. The role of the university is to highlight environmental awareness among students and encourage their active participation in tackling these issues through studies and social activities. The university should also conduct research across natural and social sciences and promote the sharing and exchange of knowledge to the communities which they serve. To achieve the SDGs and solve climate and environmental issues, we need to put words into action and look first at solving problems locally in the Asian region by changing human behavior and the behavior of industry and governments.

We are all leaders at innovating for change in our societies. The SDGs are also core values for universities. The university can play an active role to make people aware of what is valuable for ourselves and the future, not only to benefit our societies, but to benefit human kind. In Asia we have different levels and timing of development and we are fast moving societies; we can provide new kinds of innovative models to the world to address our common problems. The main role of higher education is to activate the imagination of young students and researchers and let them recognize their unlimited potential.

Looking at each other's problems in Asia and offering common solutions is an exciting way to work. As part of regional alliances, universities can help each other to persuade industry and government leaders that you can grow sustainability at the same time as economic growth. Now, we are looking at global problems, the role of Asia and our own roles as teachers and managers at universities. The combined efforts of Asian universities coming together to lead these big challenges and the desire of collaboration is why AUA was founded.

Prof. Kamila Ghazali, Deputy Vice Chancellor, Universiti Malaya

Prof. Omar Kyaw, Pro Rector, University of Yangon

Prof. Sawako Sirahase, Executive Vice President, The University of Tokyo

Prof. Christine Loh, Chief Development Strategist, Division of Environment and Sustainability, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems

The second session, themed "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Ecosystems: Asian Perspectives on Technological Stewardship and Higher Education", was moderated by Prof. Joseph Lee, Division of Public Policy, HKUST. Session two panelists, Prof. Abdullah Al-Salman, Vice Rector, King Saud University; Prof. Lakshaman Dissanayake, Former Vice Chancellor, University of Colombo; Prof. OH Se-Jung, President, Seoul National University and Prof. Andrew Wee, Vice President, National University of Singapore, were joined by the two afternoon keynote speakers, Prof. Devang Khakhar, Director, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay and Prof. LI Zexiang, Professor, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, HKUST, for the panel discussion.

Bringing diverse viewpoints to the session, panelists engaged in lively discussions on advances in government and university policies to be more innovative and less risk adverse. Touching on the attitude towards failure in some cultures, discussants talked about how this can hinder the growth of innovation and start up hubs. Before wrapping up the final session, all participants agreed that diverse Asian regions have a wealth of untapped potential to draw from and that AUA can serve as a platform to foster deeper collaborations in innovation and technological research among member institutions.

Keynote speeches

Innovation and entrepreneurship have been a focus of IIT Bombay for several years now. We have been trying to develop a thriving ecosystem for technology ventures and there are many entities within the campus that are contributing to this. Entrepreneurship is a high-risk activity and students in the past were more interested in either going for higher studies or taking up a job. So first creating enthusiasm for entrepreneurship was important. The second thing was informing both students and faculty of what is involved if you want to do a start-up.

There is a big gap between academia and industry commercialization. The traditional curriculum that we have is not effective at producing innovators. To produce good innovators, you need some expertise and good curriculum, but the habit and the mindset is more important. The important thing is what you do with what you know. And still that is not enough to go through the difficult process of a start-up; what we need are intrinsic motivations. There are three steps to develop intrinsic motivations within students: study a lot, play a great deal, and discover and follow your passion.

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

Prof. LI Zexiang, Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Panel discussion

At the University of Colombo, we have started doing a lot of initiatives to establish strong links between the university and industry, because more employment is generated in the private sector companies. When it comes to entrepreneurship you have to change the attitudes of the staff and make them understand the importance of entrepreneurship training for graduates. These policies should be embedded in the university's vision and we need collaboration and support from industries. Technology innovation shouldn't be done in isolation; we need to integrate disciplines across natural sciences and social sciences.

King Saud University established an entrepreneur institution with four centers: innovation, technology advancements and prototyping, intellectual property and business incubators and accelerators. The goals are to provide a proper incubation ecosystem for students and people outside the university and to form a new generation of entrepreneurs to create jobs. We introduced a compulso[...] 'Entrepreneurship'. Eac[...] least one credit in the f[...] and the culture of entre[...] great pool of talented h[...] key ingredient to succe[...]

Prof. Lakshman Dissanayake, Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Colombo

Prof. Abdullah Al-Salman, [...] University

Session two of the AUA Presidents Forum 2019

We should encourage students to think differently and start new things; don't make them afraid of trying something new. At Seoul National University, we are trying to change the curriculum and encouraging students to take a brand new direction. It's important to give students confidence rather than just teaching and sharing knowledge. To become a prosperous or successful start-up region, we need to be different and focus on the unique characteristics of our region such as compressed economic development; we progress very fast. We also need to improve the efficiency of traditional industry through new innovative ideas.

Prof. OH Se-Jung, President, Seoul National University

In Singapore over the last 10 years we have changed the students' mindset; they now think it's cool to be an entrepreneur. Some people are born to be entrepreneurs, but others can be bred and hence NUS has a whole series of programs to help train people to be an entrepreneur, as long as you have an interest in it. In Asia, we need to think deeply about the ethical consequences of technology; there are very important issues and we need to find the best way to deal with these here, not just copy policies from the West or Silicon Valley.

Prof. Andrew Wee, Vice President, National University of Singapore

Hong Kong as of last year had 1,925 start-ups, with 35% coming from overseas. That means Hong Kong is the right ecosystem in some way, despite all the shortcomings. All universities seem to be taking innovation and entrepreneurship very seriously. But it seems maybe there is a fundamental difference, a cultural aspect to the entrepreneurial mindset which is of a different degree in different countries. We have had some ideas on how to move forward from the panel: establish clusters and regional hubs of innovation, incubation and entrepreneurship, set up joint courses between university partners, and encourage the exchange of best practices.

Prof. Joseph Lee, Elman Family Professor of Engineering & Public Policy, Division of Public Policy, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

Prof. Sabrina Lin, Vice President for Institutional Advancement, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

It is clear that there are a lot of linkages between the two themes of the Forum. The speakers and the students who asked questions challenged us to ensure the future environment is sustainable for the next generation. This requires a lot of innovation, entrepreneurship and support. AUA is a very compact alliance spanning different countries and diverse backgrounds. This diversity encourages our students to exchange and our staff and faculty to work together to address the challenges that are unique in Asia, and we can export the solutions to the rest of the world.

University Administration Meeting
Online Education Conference
Tsinghua University, 5-6 July 2019

25 participants **10** universities

The 2019 AUA Online Education Conference was hosted by Tsinghua University's (THU) Office of Online Education from 5-6 July 2019. Through a series of keynote lectures, workshops and roundtable discussions, the goal of the conference was to build a long term dialogue platform for the enhancement of online education by bringing together 25 experts in the field from the following AUA member institutions: Chulalongkorn University, The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, National University of Singapore, Nazarbayev University, United Arab Emirates University, Universitas Indonesia, University of Colombo, Universiti Malaya, and THU.

The conference was opened by Prof. YANG Bin, THU's Vice President and Provost who officially welcomed the delegates. Drawing on the

Objectives of the conference:
• Build a long term dialogue platform for AUA members
• Establish work groups to jointly develop MOOCs
• Strengthen the MOOCs exchange between universities
• Promote joint online education programs among AUA universities and create online certificate programs and blended learning programs.

importance of the rapid development of the internet and information technology in his opening address, Prof. Yang stressed that university administrators and teachers need to fully recognize the advantages and challenges of technology and deeply integrate technology within education and teaching systems to transform and improve teaching methodologies.

He encouraged the promotion of online education, stating that utilizing teachers' initiatives and creativity will contribute to the integration of new technologies and enhance value in education.

Unique experiences

Delivering a keynote lecture on the **"Development of Online Education at Tsinghua University"**, Prof. Shijie Yu, Director of THU's Office of Online Education, shared THU's current utilization of online education. This includes the establishment of the Office of Online Education and the launch of the THU online MOOC platform - xuetangX - in 2013. So far, THU has built more than 250 MOOCs covering a wide range of courses, attracting about 11 million learners from across the globe.

Prof. Sridahar Iyer of Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IITB) delivered the second keynote lecture of the conference titled **"Online Education Practice at IITB"**. Prof. Iyer's lecture introduced India's 2009 national mission to promote the use of information and communication technology in education. Already, around US $1 billion has been invested to promote the development of more than one hundred projects from over twenty institutions. Following this, Prof. Iyer also shared the current status of online education platforms in India and the credit recognition between universities and online courses.

Prof. Ting Chuen Pong from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) gave a keynote lecture on **"Online Education Practice at The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology"**, providing the general situation of education and technology in the digital age, the MOOC construction, as well as the application of technology for education innovation at HKUST. Discussing the application experience of MOOCs to blended learning, experiential learning and fully online learning, Prof. Pong compared Confucius' teaching concepts with MOOCs, which promote the notion of *"making no social distinctions in teaching"*. He highlighted that blended learning and experiential learning have achieved the effect of *"teaching students in accordance with their aptitude"*.

Rain Classroom

THU's Assoc. Prof. Fang Yang from the Language Center and Assoc. Prof. Yuchun Ma from the Department of Computer Science and Technology respectively delivered workshops themed **"How to do Blended Learning"**. Using their own online courses as examples, they demonstrated how to use the "Rain Classroom", a smart tool developed by THU and xuetangX which is used in blended learning environments and specifically designs the whole learning process. Highlighting the functions of this innovative technology, they demonstrated to delegates that it is possible to teach students according to their aptitude through utilizing students' data on learning behavior.

In-depth discussion

In the roundtable sessions which took place at the beginning of the second day, delegates took part in group discussions on the following topics: **"Policy and Implementation of MOOCs", "How to Implement Student-Centered Teaching", "The New Teaching Method Based on IT" and "The Future Trend of Higher Education".** These discussions facilitated fruitful exchanges and interactions among delegates, focusing on issues such as MOOC policies and national strategies in AUA member countries, processes of implementing MOOCs and online learning courses, enhancing online interaction between teachers and students, improving teaching efficiency and collecting big data relating to students learning behavior. On the final afternoon of the conference, delegates had the opportunity to visit xuetangX and Aixuetang online education platforms.

The Online Education Conference was a great success, taking the first step towards building a long term platform of cooperation among AUA members in the field of online education and MOOC development.

Prof. YANG Bin, Vice President and Provost of Tsinghua University delivering the welcome address

Prof. Shijie Yu, Director of Tsinghua University's Online Education Office delivering the first keynote speech

Prof. Sridahar Iyer of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay delivering his keynote lecture

Prof. Ting Chuen Pong from The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology delivering a keynote lecture

Assoc. Prof. Fang Yang (L), Language Center and Assoc. Prof. Yuchun Ma (R), Department of Computer Science and Technology, both of Tsinghua University, delivering workshops

Roundtable discussion during the Online Education Conference

Delegates visiting xuetangX

The *Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)* report is published annually by AUA. *AHEO* aims to provide deeper insights into the higher education systems of AUA members as well as the wider Asian region in order to better understand the shared strengths and challenges faced by members and the Asian higher education sector in general. The first report *AHEO 2018 - Creation and Direction of the Asian Universities Alliance -* was published by Tsinghua University Press in November 2018. The second report *AHEO 2019 - Education Innovation -* was published by Routledge Press in October 2019. All the fifteen founding members of AUA have contributed to the reports by writing chapters, providing key data, or offering suggestions for revision. The reports provide a voice to Asian universities, increase their presence and establish the influence of AUA within and beyond Asia.

05

Asian Higher Education Outlook

AHEO 2019:
Education Innovation

Background

Institutions of higher learning have long been cherished as a pillar of Asian societies. As Asia thrives both economically and socially, this diverse region has also spurred the progress and significance of a diverse group of leading universities. The founding of the Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) in 2017 by fifteen leading universities has created both need and opportunity to study public research universities in Asia and their broader socioeconomic contributions. This study is supported by AUA as one of its four pillars in the form of the annual research series - the *Asian Higher Education Outlook (AHEO)*.

AHEO 2018, the first of the series, engaged in deliberation and exploration of the mission and vision of AUA through the collective and individual strengths and expectations of its members. *AHEO 2018* examined major trends in the transformation of Asia and Asian higher education, the nature and diverse characteristics of AUA universities, and the roles of AUA members in expanding and diversifying provision through international education, the university-society alignment, the rise of entrepreneurial universities, and emerging trends in the field of Asia's higher education studies.

AHEO 2019, the second of the series, focuses on education innovation in AUA universities. It responds to an urgent need to better understand education, teaching and learning at leading Asian universities. Educating highly talented people is core to AUA universities, and a major global contribution. Yet, there is little shared insight into what is going on, and what is being achieved by these leading institutions.

Key Findings

This research produced the following broad findings:

There is much to be gained by finding ways to further distinguish the value created by leading universities

There is substantial value in creating research-driven insights into leading Asian universities

In addition, six specific findings were formed:

Profound value will be realized by building a platform for education innovation

Adopting an effective doctoral education architecture has the potential to improve experiences and outcomes

Flagship universities have region-leading potential to build effective blended and online education

Leading Asian universities have a responsibility to demonstrate the value of social engagement

Flagship universities must play a leading role in promoting sustainability development

Flagship universities must play a leading global role in designing future higher education

Leading Education Innovation

Overall, within the broad frame of sustainable development, the book proposes a three-phase approach for building capability:

AUA universities should invest in education innovation in very coordinated, calculated and consequential ways. The ongoing cultivation of teachers and teaching capability including infrastructure is crucial. The idea of sustainability can serve as an important excellence model and organizing frame for structuring this investment.	Leverage is essential. A key leverage is creating major intersections that involve broader multilateral and multi-disciplinary institutional collaborations and exchanges by way of identifying and tackling large "grand challenges" such as Asian sustainability.	Leading Asian universities must make great achievements. Leading Asian universities must demonstrate the public value they create and their academic contributions. The key value involves, among others, articulating what is distinctively "Asian" about the educational achievement. And what then, most broadly, is the role of leading Asian universities in world?

Research Approach

This book was generated in a highly collaborative way. It was written by 24 authors from AUA member universities. A similar number of advisers and administrators from these universities and beyond provided generous support throughout the project. The rich array of viewpoints and data are drawn from institutional surveys, expert meetings and consultations, conferences, a variety of research methods, and special sessions during the AUA Summit and AUA Executives' Meeting.

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AHEO 2019 at the Tokyo Convention Conference

Attending the Second Session of the Committee of the Asia-Pacific Regional Convention on the Recognition of Qualifications in Higher Education (The Tokyo Convention Committee) in Bangkok, Thailand, Director of the AHEO Project, Assoc. Prof. ZHONG Zhou from Tsinghua University's Institute of Education shared the results from the AHEO series. Speaking at the conference on September 19th 2019, Assoc. Prof. Zhong presented the findings from the second in the *AHEO* series, *AHEO 2019: Education Innovation,* published by Routledge. The event is supported by the UNESCO Bangkok Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education.

AUA Secretariat

At the AUA Board Meeting 2019,
the AUA Secretariat was unanimously voted to be permanently hosted
by Tsinghua University.

Dr. ZHANG Chuanjie
AUA Secretary

FANG Yanhua
Chief Administrator

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Key Dates 2019-2020

Date	Program	Host
13 Apr 2019	AUA Board Meeting 2019	Tsinghua University
14 Apr 2019	AUA Presidents Forum 2019	The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology & Tsinghua University
Jun 2019-Mar 2020	AUA Scholars Award Program	15 AUA Members
Jun 2019-Mar 2020	AUA Staff Exchange Program	11 AUA Members & AUA Secretariat
17-21 Jun 2019	AUA Student Competition: Good Governance in the 21st Century and its Challenges	Nazarbayev University
1-7 Jul 2019	Innovation, Incubation and Entrepreneurship	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
5-6 Jul 2019	Online Education Conference	Tsinghua University
21-22 Nov 2019	AUA Executives' Meeting 2019	University of Colombo
23-24 Nov 2019	Communication of Mass Culture Between China and Other Asian Countries in the 21st Century	Peking University
25-29 Nov 2019	AUA Youth Forum 2019: Wellbeing Beyond Health	University of Colombo
9-15 Dec 2019	Sun, Society, Sustainability	Indian Institute of Technology Bombay
11-19 Jan 2020	Design Thinking for Urban Challenges: Big Data Approach	Seoul National University
15-21 Jan 2020	AUA-UM Appreciating Diverse Communities Through Arts 2020	Universiti Malaya
18-30 Jan 2020	AUA Asia Deep Dive Program 2020: United Arab Emirates - Past, Present, Future	United Arab Emirates University
27-28 Jan 2020	Sustainable Universal Health Care Coverage	Chulalongkorn University