



## **AIMS Virtual Mobility Roundtable**

*Virtual Meeting, Organised by SEAMEO RIHED*

### **1. Background**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, countries around the world continue to impose social distancing and travel restrictions, along with other measures, to contain the situation. Its impact is evident across all sectors in Southeast Asia including the higher education sector. Universities have since put on hold physical activities along with the mobility of students and lecturers, and increasingly utilised various tools to promote virtual learning and collaborations.

In early 2020, SEAMEO RIHED surveyed the participating member universities of the AIMS Programme to better capture how the situation has affected student mobility as well as the impact of the pandemic on teaching and learning practices. The effort to exchange knowledge and lessons learned on the ongoing situation also took place throughout the year through regional dialogues with stakeholders, including the 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting held in August and November 2020, respectively. In promoting the sharing of national and institutional practices, the AIMS network witnessed a great extent of virtual initiatives and collaborations carried out across member countries and universities. Not only are universities relying more on online communication and tools, but the shift to online teaching and learning has also prompted more attention to assessment procedures and pedagogical approaches. National governments in the region also played a role in encouraging and supporting this transformation towards online education.

In this transition to online collaborative learning, the most notable transition taking place in the region is virtual mobility. It has emerged as an innovative way of connecting students in a multicultural, international learning environment without having to travel abroad. Importantly, virtual mobility can support social inclusion and enable equal learning opportunities by reducing existing barriers including gender, disability or socio-economic status. A virtual mobility experience can be enhanced by integrating interactive learning and collaborative pedagogical approaches while it also offers great flexibility for students and teachers to participate in the learning process.

The 5<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee Meeting and 14<sup>th</sup> Annual Review Meeting explored the possibility of pursuing collaborative course design within disciplines of the AIMS Programme and deliver to students in a form of virtual mobility. It was discussed that virtual mobility has the potential to complement physical mobility beyond the current pandemic situation in achieving specific new learning opportunities across countries and within the disciplines of the AIMS Programme. Moreover, the Meetings realised the potential role virtual mobility may play in the forthcoming future in reaching the objectives of the Programme on strengthening the regional mobility and internationalisation of higher education in Southeast Asia and beyond.

### **2. Proposed Consultative Mechanism for Virtual Course Collaboration**

The AIMS Virtual Mobility Roundtable provides a platform for member universities to initiate discussion within and between the respective disciplines to explore the potential means of virtual

collaborations, including the designing of joint online courses and provision of virtual mobility opportunities under the AIMS Programme. The Roundtable aims to broadly discuss mutual understanding of virtual mobility and key elements in virtual course collaboration. Some of the issues and scopes that will be covered during the Roundtable include, but not limited to, the following:

- The general criteria / guidelines for virtual exchange;
- Integrating transversal skills in the courseware design (including socio-cultural learning);
- Quality assurance for courses provided;
- Credit recognition and transfer;
- Assessment of student learning; and
- Support systems for virtual mobility.

The Roundtable will be facilitated by SEAMEO RIHED. The Roundtable also serves to stocktake and share institutional practices of ongoing virtual collaborations among member universities, which would be instrumental in identifying common interests and opportunities.

The Roundtable is arranged in an inter-disciplinary manner. Two or three inter-related disciplines are grouped together to join the consultation in order to maximise the benefit of accommodating shared perspectives and expertise. During the Roundtable, further discussion within these groups or specific disciplines will be encouraged. Universities that participate in student exchange in more than one discipline under the AIMS Programme are encouraged to join multiple groups for the Roundtable as the discussion will be facilitated in the context of respective disciplines. Prior to the Roundtable, SEAMEO RIHED circulates a **preliminary survey** with the registration form in order to gather information about the current status of virtual learning implementation in member universities and seek input for potential collaborations under the AIMS Programme. The survey input will also be used to guide consultation during the Roundtable.

### **3. Expected Results**

- To provide space for consultation and explore the arrangement of virtual course collaborations at the Programme level
- To promote the sharing of virtual learning practices among member universities
- To set a scope of collaboration and form general agreement on the way forward for virtual mobility in the AIMS Programme

### **4. Invited Participants**

University executives and faculty representatives from AIMS member universities are invited to join the roundtable.

### **5. Meeting Platform**

Microsoft Teams (the Meeting link will be provided to the registered participants 2 days before the respective roundtables)

## 6. Roundtable Schedule

In total, 4 rounds of roundtable will be organised with the following arrangement:

Schedule	Disciplines	
Thursday, 4 March 2021 (13:00 – 15:00, GMT+7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Biodiversity</li> <li>Marine Science</li> <li>Environmental Management and Science</li> </ul>	Group 1
Tuesday, 9 March 2021 (13:00 – 15:00, GMT+7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Economics</li> <li>International Business</li> </ul>	Group 2
Thursday, 11 March 2021 (13:00 – 15:00, GMT+7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hospitality and Tourism</li> <li>Language and Culture</li> </ul>	Group 3
Tuesday, 16 March 2021 (13:00 – 15:00, GMT+7)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Agriculture</li> <li>Engineering</li> <li>Food Science and Technology</li> </ul>	Group 4

## 7. Roundtable Agenda

Time	Agenda
12.30 – 13.00	Log-in of Participants
13.00 – 13.05	Welcome Remarks Dr Chantavit Sujatanond, Centre Director of SEAMEO RIHED
13.05 – 13.15	Overview of Roundtable Introduction of Participants
13.15 – 13.25	Sharing the Result of the Preliminary Survey <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mapping out virtual mobility and collaboration among AIMS member universities</li> </ul>
13.25 – 13.40	Virtual Course Collaboration in the AIMS Programme

13.40 – 14.30	<p>Discipline Group Discussion</p> <p><i>Breakout rooms are provided for each of the disciplines participating in the Roundtable. Participants are invited to join the respective discipline group and discuss and exchange inputs on key elements in virtual course collaboration.</i></p>
14.30 – 14.50	Reporting Session
14.50 – 15.00	Way Forward and What's Next?
15.00	Closing