



## ASEAN FOUNDATION

### eNews

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#### **ASEAN Foundation, AUN/SEED-Net and JICA Collaborate to Enhance Networking and Knowledge Transfer in ASEAN countries**



The ASEAN Foundation, through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund, in collaboration with the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEEDNet) and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) supported the 2nd Regional Conference in Biotechnology organized by the Institute of Technology of Cambodia and the De La Salle University of the Philippines, which brought together over 50 biotechnology experts from ASEAN Member States and Japan as well as representatives from the government and private sector in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 11-12 February 2010. Dr. Filemon A. Uriarte, Jr., Executive Director of the ASEAN Foundation highlighted in his remarks the role of the ASEAN Foundation in helping promote and establish the ASEAN Community. He emphasized that the AUN/SEED-Net regional conferences support the mandate of the ASEAN Foundation to develop human resources and enhance interaction among various ASEAN stakeholders, in this case, engineers, academicians, scientists and professionals. Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports Cambodia, H.E Chamnan Pit and Chief Representative of JICA Cambodia Office Mr. Yasujiro Suzuki also graced the conference.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Regional Conference in Biotechnology, which focused on the theme: *“Research and Development on Food Technology”*, served as a venue for researchers, academicians as well as industry professionals to strengthen the research collaboration under the AUN/SEED-Net research umbrella. The conference also provided opportunities to exchange views related to research and development activities in biotechnology and food science. The conference included 4 keynote presentations and 16 technical sessions. Twenty-two technical papers were also published in the conference proceedings. The 3<sup>rd</sup> regional conference in Biotechnology will be hosted by Hanoi University of Technology later in the year.

Since 2003, the ASEAN Foundation through the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund, has provided financial support to AUN/SEED-Net to expand and enhance the educational and research engineering capacities of 19 leading engineering schools in ASEAN in cooperation with 11 leading Japanese universities. The ASEAN Foundation provided funding support of over USD 316,000 for graduate studies (master's degree), research grants and other academic programs during the preparatory period (2003-2007 - Phase I) of the AUN/SEED-Net to upgrade faculty qualification and strengthen human linkages through visits and participation in field research and seminars. In Phase II of the AUN/SEED-Net (2008 - 2013), the ASEAN Foundation provided a grant of over USD778,000, which focuses on establishing a sustainable framework of human resource

development network in the engineering field. The regional conferences are aimed to strengthen the academic network and serve as the key to tie scholars, industry and community together and to integrate all other programs to achieve the overall objectives of the project.

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**The ASEAN Foundation  
Jl. Sam Ratulangi No.2, Menteng,  
Jakarta Pusat 10350, INDONESIA**

**Phone: +62-21-3192 4828 | Fax: +62-21-3192 6078**

**E-mail: [secretariat@aseanfoundation.org](mailto:secretariat@aseanfoundation.org) | Web: <http://www.aseanfoundation.org>**