European Union Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region
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ASEAN SECRETARIAT, INDONESIA - 8 August 2018 - (From left to right) H.E. Vongthep Arthakaivalvatee, former Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, H.E. Francisco Fontan, EU Ambassador to ASEAN, H.E. Dato Lim Jock Hoi, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Tan Hun Seng, Permanent Representative of Singapore to ASEAN, and H.E. AKP Mochtan, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for Community and Corporate Affairs mark the opening ceremony of the 1st ASEAN-EU Scholarships Day and EU-ASEAN Blue Book 2018
Foreword

Over the past 50 years, ASEAN has made great strides in improving the quality of life of its people. With the establishment of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) and the adoption of the ASCC Blueprint 2025 in late 2015, this commitment has been given a renewed impetus.

The ASCC Blueprint seeks to build a community that engages and benefits the people, and is inclusive, sustainable, resilient and dynamic. Our work touches upon diverse areas including education. The recent focus of ASEAN on building a truly people-oriented and people-centred ASEAN Community has provided an opportunity for higher education students to become more aware of, and more involved in, building and promoting the ASEAN Community.

On education, the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on Higher Education adopted by ASEAN Leaders in 2015 encapsulates regional commitment to uphold quality in the provision of higher education across ASEAN Member States. To enhance the competitiveness of ASEAN human resources, it is crucial to strengthen regional and global cooperation in enhancing the quality and competitiveness of higher education institutions. A key strategy is to strengthen our ability to continuously innovate and be a proactive member of the global community.

Southeast Asia is home to some 7,000 Higher Education Institutions with around 12 million students. Scholarships for mobility between ASEAN member states are available through a variety of currently active schemes. This include the SHARE Scholarship which has awarded 500 scholarships to students in ASEAN. In addition, ASEAN and the European Union have jointly designed SHARE to provide support for ASEAN students to take advantage of opportunities to study as intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-EU scholars through the SHARE Scholarship Scheme.

This Faces of SHARE book demonstrates the successes and benefits of our close cooperation with the EU in this student mobility programme. By joining forces, ASEAN will continue to build on these achievements to strengthen the higher education space in the region.

It is my sincere hope that the Faces of SHARE book will serve as a platform for framing and documenting ASEAN wide students’ testimonials and sharing their experiences. I believe by reading this book, we will have a positive prospect for ASEAN’s future from these young generations who will then contribute to drive integration within ASEAN and create a stronger ASEAN identity.
Foreword

The European Union is proud to be able to contribute to ASEAN’s vision in building a people-centred ASEAN community in the higher education area through the Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) programme. SHARE enhances cooperation between the EU and ASEAN and creates lasting benefits through harmonisation of the higher education space across ASEAN. This will be beneficial not only to students and universities, but to societies and economies as a whole.

SHARE student mobility scheme provides valuable opportunities for students to develop a wider vision and an academic experience beyond one’s national border. Students are exposed to different cultures, languages, people and places which will contribute to greater understanding among nations. The future graduates will be able to enlarge their skillsets, have better understanding of cultures, find employment and, in return, contribute to the society, as well as to the ASEAN Community.

We can envisage a world where an "ASEAN Scholarship" flourishes just like the Erasmus Scholarships in Europe. I also hope that ASEAN and European students will be able to study in each other’s regions in much greater numbers than they do today.

Faces of SHARE presents testimonials from some of our Awardees who describe how they personally benefitted from academic mobility. I hope those stories will encourage many more ASEAN students to apply to the programme.
It is a great pleasure for the EU Support to Higher Education in the ASEAN Region (SHARE) programme to introduce our very first book, Faces of SHARE, the testimonials compilation from SHARE Scholarship Awardees Batch 1-4. This year is very special for both SHARE and its alumni since it marks almost 2.5 years of the SHARE student mobility programme since its launch in 2016. This book highlights SHARE’s journey in supporting student mobility within the ASEAN and between ASEAN and the EU.

We believe that education is a cornerstone of every nation’s social and economic development, and universities play an indispensable part in education, research, and innovation. If harmonised at the regional level, higher education can reinforce the strengths of communities like the EU and ASEAN and effectively contribute to overall regional policies. Thus, higher education serves ‘as one of the catalysts in accelerating ASEAN’s economic, political, and sociocultural development agenda’, as borne out in the Chairman’s Statement of the 27th ASEAN Summit in 2015.

In 2015, ASEAN and the European Union launched SHARE programme, which aims to support ASEAN in harmonising regional higher education by sharing European experiences. The EU has entrusted the implementation of SHARE to a consortium composed of British Council, Campus France, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA), and the European University Association (EUA).

This book demonstrates the successes and benefits of student mobility. In the following pages you can learn about the impact of the SHARE student mobility programme, which creates opportunities for ASEAN youth to study in other ASEAN countries. In so doing, they also get to experience the diversity inherent among the cultures of ASEAN and perhaps most importantly, they form friendships with their fellow ASEAN youth.

Thank you for your interest in the work of the SHARE Programme.
ASEAN SECRETARIAT, INDONESIA - 8 August 2018 - SHARE Awardees participate in the 1st ASEAN-EU Cooperation and Scholarships Day also have a brief discussion with the Secretary-General of ASEAN, the Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, and the EU Ambassador to ASEAN.
“Mobility is the most effective method to start the Higher Education harmonisation process within the ASEAN region.” – ASEAN Stakeholders

As student mobility plays an important role in the further internationalisation and harmonisation of higher education, one of SHARE’s components is a scholarship programme for intra-ASEAN and ASEAN-EU mobility to test the application of credit transfer systems (ACTS and AECTS). SHARE is supporting ASEAN’s vision of building an ASEAN Scholarship Scheme at the centre of the emerging Higher Education Area in the region. Inspired by the successful Erasmus Scholarship Scheme in Europe, ASEAN has teamed up with the European Union to build the mechanics of an intra-ASEAN student mobility scheme through SHARE.

During four years of the SHARE Programme, funded by the EU, some 500 scholarships have been awarded to ASEAN undergraduate students in any academic discipline in ASEAN Member States (except Brunei Darussalam and Singapore)*, of which 400 scholarships are allocated for intra-ASEAN mobility and 100 scholarships for study in the EU. Students should be enrolled in one of 32 universities in ASEAN that make up the SHARE network and may choose to study at another university from the network. An integral part of SHARE scholarships is credit transfer, which makes the study abroad sustainable and strengthens the university network.

The SHARE scholarship programme offers a fully-funded, one semester exchange for undergraduate students from selected universities across the ASEAN region. Nuffic will also facilitate capacity-building workshop for universities that are willing to enhance their internationalisation process, student mobility and the use of the new credit transfer systems.

*Disclaimer: EU funding rules for SHARE currently do not allow giving scholarships to students from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore.
ASEAN and EU have jointly designed SHARE to support ASEAN's ambition to build an ASEAN Higher Education Area, to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students, and thereby to contribute to a people-centred ASEAN Community. On this journey, SHARE provides ASEAN with relevant experience and expertise from the European Higher Education Area.

A consortium of the British Council (lead), Campus France, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic, the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) and the European University Association (EUA) implements SHARE on behalf of ASEAN and EU from 2015 to 2019. SHARE's work can be grouped in five areas: Policy Dialogues: in support of harmonization of higher education in the ASEAN region with policy-makers as well as technical specialists.

Qualifications Frameworks (QFs): supporting the implementation of the ASEAN Qualifications Reference Framework (AQRF) and the development of National Qualification Frameworks. Quality Assurance (QA): fostering the ASEAN QA Framework (AQAF) at regional/national levels through a combination of European-ASEAN expert dialogue, framework development, dissemination workshops and capacity development.

ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) & ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System (AECTS): Building on existing credit transfer systems (CTS), SHARE is setting up a common platform for online credit transfer and developing a comprehensive set of mobility tools. Extensive capacity building measures accompany the technical work.

ACTS & AECTS Student Mobility with Scholarships: SHARE has set up a comprehensive student mobility scheme for the ASEAN region and is implementing four student intakes by providing scholarships to some 500 ASEAN students for credit mobility within ASEAN and in the EU.
JAKARTA, INDONESIA - 21-22 May 2018 - SHARE Programme Directors and Team Leader join efforts to facilitate ASEAN-EU Consultation Workshop on Higher Education. (From left to right) Thomas Zettler, Programme Director for DAAD, Stefan Hell, SHARE Team Leader 2015-2018, Ian Robinson, Programme Director for British Council, Antoine Devoucoux du Buysson, Programme Director for Campus France, Peter van Tuijl, Programme Director for Nuffic
MANILA, PHILIPPINES - 14-15 June 2017 - SHARE Awardees among ASEAN and European students convene in the First ASEAN Student Mobility Forum to discuss about impact student mobility has on individuals' studies, careers, and communities in the ASEAN region as a whole.
PHNOM PENH, CAMBODIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme in Cambodia

BOGOR, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme at Bogor Agricultural
At first, being an exchange student for me is quite challenging because I am emerged far from my home, expected to learn new knowledge in the new environment and culture. But as time flies, my journey in University of Santo Tomas (UST) Philippines was an exploratory of knowledge and understanding not only in my scope of studies but also the diversity of literacy. First, I got to explore and experience diversities of people, rituals and foods. Next, enrolled in 4th year subjects helped me improving critical thinking and communication skills; as sociology students have to gives out opinions, arguments, researches, immersions and team building while apply it with sociological perspective instead of common sense wholly. At first, I was worried with all the subjects and it must be challenging for me. But, learning those subjects is one of the most I like about the academics because I got to learn new things. At the end of the semester I’m proud of myself as I catch up very well and managed to get dean’s’ list. Also, I felt really lucky as I felt welcomed, accepted and being treated well by everyone there. By that, I made a lot of new friends and family. In my point of view, the benefit of studying abroad are I learned how to stand with my own feet, learned how to become independent and face the responsibilities that being tasked on me. And most important, I learned how to respect life and thankful for what I have right now. My suggestions for future outgoing students are this mobility programme is a good platform to promote and show the best of yourselves. So try to immerse and socialise well with people and don’t be shy. If I could inspire people with just one piece of advice, it could be of never seceding to someone else judgement and criticism. With the right ambition, determinations, passions and focus, you will eventually be surprised by what you can overcome and succeed at.
During my mobility programme, I have witnessed many priceless and not-so-good things happened in my life. Living abroad is, to some extent, lonely and hard especially when I get sick. However, I do not perceive this an acute problem. Instead, such challenge gives me strength to develop personality, to live out of comfort zone, to solve problems and to see the world from different perspectives. Studying in another ASEAN country obviously allows me to get better informed about the differences and similarities we share in the region. As a matter of a fact, my host university, the University of the Philippines Diliman, is a hub of international students, especially ASEAN students. Therefore, my experience was even greater enriched by sharing one another’s culture, history, society and preferences. This helps us feel compromise one another and build a strong people-to-people connection in the region.

Moreover, I benefit a lot from my academic experience. As expected, I counter hardship at first in term of language barrier and different educational system. However, these problems are gradually solved as I get more familiar to the environment. Once I am used to studying and living there, I start to learn not only from the lectures but also from my observation on the host university’s educational system. The former adds me more knowledge related to my academic major while the latter will help me shape policies on education in my country and in ASEAN in large.

Each country has its own culture and it is our duty to respect the differences. I find many cultural similarities among ASEAN countries. However, there are still differences that we need to learn from each other. Culturally and socially, I learn to adopt well. It is fun for me as an exchange student to share my culture to other students and to engage with local people. This help us realize the importance of building a stronger region for development and cooperation.
The first few weeks were hard because you had to adjust to the new environment. I also felt homesick because the weather was really different from what I was used to. Despite these difficulties that I have experienced, I was able to eventually adapt to my surroundings because of the people I met. Particularly, my fellow awardees from the SHARE Scholarship made my experience more meaningful because I was able to explore Ireland with them; every weekends we go out and explore different parts of the country.

Being given the opportunity to broaden my perspective after being awarded the SHARE Scholarship has, indeed, been a very wonderful and exhilarating experience. The whole experience of staying in a foreign country for four months has molded me into becoming the person that I am today. I became more independent and outgoing because I had time to really get to know myself and figure out my strengths and weaknesses. Furthermore, I have also met a lot of people who have impacted my perspectives upon things throughout my stay in Ireland; these people have opened my mind to the vast possibilities outside my comfort zone and they also made me more culturally aware as an individual. The stories that I shared and learned about from my newly made friends from all over the world has really opened my eyes and made me look upon things at a different perspective. Similarly, the knowledge I learned from my classes in Ireland can help me in further raising awareness about mental health in my country for I think it is a timely issue we are experiencing in our country. I aspire to be a doctor in Psychiatry someday, thus applying what I learned from UCC in Ireland can help me in raising awareness about mental health and the issues that surround it. Overall, I am very thankful for the experience given to me by the SHARE Scholarship because given such opportunity is something I would never ever forget.

At first, when I found out I was awarded the SHARE Scholarship, I was both excited and scared. I have always wanted to study abroad, but at the same time, I did not believe that I have the capability to temporarily live on my own in another country for a period of time. However, when this opportunity be SHARE was presented upon me, I decided to grab the opportunity because I heard a lot of good things about the program through my university.
My name is Mayleang Hean from National University of Management, Cambodia who have been awarded to SHARE Scholarship Batch 4 to SGH Warsaw School of Economics, Poland.

Studying abroad is one of my wildest dream that I always tell myself every day that “You have to make it comes true one day.” Then I found out SHARE was a great scholarship for providing me a best opportunity to studying abroad.

As an exchanged student for one semester to Poland, I truly received a lot of new knowledge, experiences and life lessons. Studying in class with new learning system, environment and classmates is kind of nervous and complicated situation for my first day there. After several discussions about lessons and other assignments, I was grateful to have the helpful lecturers and classmates who encouraged me to study hard and enjoyable every day. Moreover, I also had such a great time to experience the modern public transportation, communication and other new technology system while I was travelling to many European countries. Those creative innovations gave me a couple ideas to start up my own business and join the business model competition in next year. Furthermore, running out of my comfort zone is one of the big challenges in my life. I have learnt how hard it was to improve myself to be an independent woman. Staying far away from my home country, I was able to adapt myself with new society, culture and the new flavor of food. Otherwise, I was better to have a good relationship with my new friends who came from other different parts of the world. Also, I learned how to cope up with many problems and be responsible of my own life.

Last but not least, SHARE Scholarship not only provided me the financial support but also the precious living experience in Europe. Because of this gold opportunity, I believe that “Nothing is impossible to make your wildest dream comes true.”
Although there was only one exchange student in my section, I didn’t feel any discrimination thanks to the mentors’ compassion. They treated me like their local students, so what I deeply understood was that we all create the world to be peaceful and beautiful by sharing and accepting harmoniously. Besides, my English was upgraded through communication.

Another outcome is that not only could we taste Filipino cultures and traditions but we could also introduce what Myanmar believes in and how we behave in our society. For my liking, paying respect to others’ cultures and beliefs can bridge a concordant zone. We don’t need any special supplies. I think that the program significantly supports creating peaceful mind between nations.

In addition, at first I faced difficulties in making friends because I used to be afraid of people. I missed the class information and I came to know that this was the result of not having friends. But “time” changed me into a better person. My better interpersonal communication finally created an international friend zone. I had groupmates for discussions and presentations. In spite of being born in different lands, we all behave like real siblings by caring for and giving sympathy to each other. We are still keeping in touch. Apart from my classmates, I got other international awardees as friends.

The saying says “youths are the leaders of the future.” If we close our eyes and vault off the brain, we won’t be a good leader. So we need to be quite perfect in both academic and social skills.

I am Hsu Myat Aein from the University of Yangon, Myanmar. I was accepted by the University of Santo Tomas (UST) as a SHARE Batch 4 Awardee. It was my very first step of studying abroad and I also got premium experiences as a gift.

Though being far away from homeland made me a little bit scared, it enabled me to establish self-control, self-confidence, and the ability to make my own right decisions. I took five Biology courses at UST for one semester. I had a chance to see different teaching and learning techniques.
I’m from Universiti Malaysia Sabah and I studied two subjects in Computer Science and one subject in Electrical Engineering in University College Cork, Ireland, one of the most prestigious universities in Ireland. Hoping to fulfil one of the SHARE mobility programme, I chose the modules which are the most similar to the subjects in my home university so I can transfer the credits (still in progress). During five months in UCC, I was inspired by how they learn and take responsibility as a university student. With a more balanced learning environment in terms of academic and soft skills, they do enjoy themselves in the process as well as the result. Therefore, enjoy your life, seek knowledge, and live a meaningful life!

One of the benefits of studying abroad is being able to meet new people with different colours, languages and religions. I was lucky to have two French and one Italian housemates. We started talking about everything from the beginning of the semester. They are friendly and love to share experiences as I do. I’m always proud as an Asian, as we are so rich in languages, natural resources and religions. Cultural exchange helps me think differently and learn from others. So never be afraid to meet new people with different cultures and religions.

In a few months in Ireland, I have discovered that the locals really do care about their community. They practise all sorts of campaigns and volunteering programs for different purposes. The point is that they are concerned and take responsibility as citizens to help the poor and the homeless.

Many things have happened in the last few months. Though I had never thought of studying abroad in my undergraduate degree, I was given an opportunity to join SHARE mobility programme where students from ASEAN countries are able to study abroad within or outside ASEAN for one semester.
ASEAN SECRETARIAT, INDONESIA - 13 March 2017 - SHARE Awardees share their valuable stories during mobility programme to Lauren Kana, Blogger for EU Faces2Hearts Project
My name is Morlakod Somboun, I am undergraduate student of English arts, Faculty of Letters, National University of Laos. I have been awarded SHARE scholarship in Taylor’s University, Malaysia.

SHARE Scholarship helps me to success for my goal. When I study abroad, I learn how to improve my personally and gained more knowledge in many ways. In addition, I learn how to work as teamwork, to become good leader but should not focus own idea, I must listen the suggestion from other people; whereas, we sometimes have different opinion.

I also learn to be more confident myself from shy people become people who are assertive and dare to express idea. At the same time, I learn to know my own role and responsibility, I have a charge that someday, I’m going to be a future of my nation and I want to be a part of development to lead my country out of least developing country to civilization so everything that I do I must do my best. From the first day until the end day in Malaysia to study at Taylor’s University, I feel that I have become wiser since I have seen and experience new things, and had a wider sight of the world.

I get not only knowledge and skills but also a good friendship from ASEAN friends who get SHARE Scholarship and study at Taylor’s university same like me. Furthermore, I change my perspective, my bad attitude to be friendly person. I adapt myself to understand their culture to be friend with them, although we are from different places. I love when we travel together, we help each other, we share experience. Sometimes, we review the lesson together, they told me what I do not understand seem they are my instructor.

After I finish to be exchange student, I use experience that I received from the program to make it best benefit out of it. when I come back from the exchange program, I continue to study hard to get graduation from the National university of Lao and I also plan to internship as a teacher, I think education system in my country still has its weakness if compare with other countries; therefore, to improve the education system, it is important for the new generation. Educating youth is very important, especially now, since Lao is a part of ASEAN, and I seek to balance out the difference between the ten countries, so I would like to give knowledge for young people who have knowledge and abilities are going to be the future of my country, Lao PDR.

Finally, I would like to say “thank you so much” for SHARE scholarship project that give me a chance to study at Taylor’s university, Malaysia. And I would like to invite friend from all ASEAN countries to apply for SHARE Scholarship. To apply for this, I have some advices for you, do it now and have a belief of yourself that you can do, then you will get successful. We should be ourselves, to be the best of ourselves and then know well our goal why we want to go there, to improve our personally and then gain knowledge and experience that we get from exchange program to make it best benefit out of it.
I am Nay San Lin from Department of Physics, University of Yangon, Myanmar. Currently, I am studying Applied Physics at the University of Santo Tomas (UST) in the Philippines under the SHARE Scholarship Batch 3. Personally speaking, I was a shy person and seldom communicated with strangers in the past. That became a barrier whenever I decided to apply for scholarships and join foreign universities. But, fortunately, I made up my mind to apply for a SHARE Scholarship and that has broadened my horizon a lot.

I have gained a lot of cultural and social experiences in the Philippines. During this program, I have a golden chance to reveal our Myanmar histories, traditions and culture and on the other hand, those of other ASEAN countries come to my schema and I firmly believe that it is a priceless benefit for my life. To talk about my social life, I have got a lot of friends and I finally realize that human beings do not thrive when they are isolated from others. Now, I talk, discuss and argue with them again and again. Therefore, without being noticed, my social skill is improved a lot after studying two and a half months at UST.

Moreover, what I would love to mention now is the benefits of studying abroad. I have known not only about the world but also about myself more clearly. I become more independent and whenever I have challenges, I have enough courage to adapt to them. Furthermore, I also have an invaluable chance to know how people in the world are trying their best for their countries. I have also got a lot of academic experience such as critical thinking, problem solving skills, deep knowledge about the laboratory and so on.

To all fellow students, please don’t miss your precious opportunity. You may get both amazing benefits and challenges. In my point of view, life is so boring if you don’t have any challenges to overcome.
But then I tranquilized them this is an excellent chance to discover new cultures, new beautiful sites, to meet and make friends all over the world, and most importantly, to mature. Indeed, this scholarship has helped me develop so far.

I used to be kind of introversion person, and I rarely get into a conversation with others. However, since the time I came here, the friendly and hospitable people in Cambodia have made me change a lot. I began talking with them when I visited the market or wandered around the streets. My introversion has started becoming extroversion.

Besides, this scholarship gives me one more step on the way to contribute my little IT knowledge to the development of ASEAN. The professional learning environment and the passion, as well as the enthusiasm from my lecturers and my classmates here at PPIU have helped me gain a lot of useful knowledge.

In conclusion, SHARE Scholarship has allowed me to partake in lots of professional development experiences. Now I am proud I was selected to participate in such a great program, and that I have contributed to the harmonisation among ASEAN countries.

“I cannot imagine how it will be when you, a little boy, live alone in another country.” That is what my mother said when she heard that I was awarded SHARE Scholarship.

I am Ngo Anh Tuan, an Information and Communication Technology student at Ha Noi University of Science and Technology, Viet Nam. I have always had a desire for studying abroad to increase my knowledge, to improve my soft skills, and to gain memorable experiences. When I was informed about SHARE Scholarship, I knew the opportunity had come. And fortunately, I was privileged to receive SHARE Scholarship Batch 3 in Phnom Penh International University, Cambodia. Of course, my parents were worried a lot.
The value of my student life is fulfilled by not only knowledge but also experiences and memories. I have always dreamed of studying abroad since I entered my home university – HCMC University of Technology and Education. Receiving this scholarship was helping me to take the financial burden lightly and providing assistance for me as I can continue pursuing my education with chance to work with my squad in Indonesia and international student community.

From the very first time I was scheduling for my academic at University of Indonesia, there was some classes which I wanted to registered but not suitable for me because of differential language. Finally, I registered three classes Engineering Entrepreneurship, Process Control Systems and Digital Control Systems as it will be supporting me for my future career to become engineering entrepreneur in smart agriculture field and contribute to community as my commitment. I targeted to perform my best with my assiduity and collaboration to achieve the best result. Although our backgrounds are different from each other, I see it as my opportunity to enrich my knowledge and sharpen my skill.

SHARE is a bridge of internationalization and harmonization between ASEAN countries and European countries where cultural heritage broadens my opportunities for education and lifelong learning. Detailed study about every aspect of diverse culture have given me profound knowledge. I learned how people in many parts of this country live together in harmony and openness.

Unfortunately, opportunities don’t last forever. Exchange with SHARE scholarship is also not exceptional opportunity. I am currently a senior student who don’t have so much time left as undergraduate student. Because I didn’t want to miss out on something truly life-changing, I didn’t hesitate to take advantage of SHARE opportunity with simply say yes to this new adventure. I was both extremely surprised and honored to receive SHARE Scholarship.

Besides, this exchange program allowed me to immerse myself to the large social network with the participation of many countries around the world.
Everything was my first-hand experiences: first time to travel by plane, first time to live abroad and first time to live outside the box.

As an introvert girl, I am not sure about what I should do to integrate with other people – strangers (my first thinking: different personalities, different belief and values, different religions and nations)

However, if I still stand in my “small corner”, I will die of getting bored and isolated. Then, I find an interesting resolution for all of the questions: “cooking for connecting”.

The first meal was enjoyed by 4 people in different countries: Vietnam, Cambodia, Japan and Myanmar. In the morning accompanied by a Cambodia girl, I went the local market and tried to figure out enough ingredients for the first meal “phở cuốn”. We cannot find all ingredients I needed but luckily the taste was still good and somehow was the same as I cook in Vietnam. At last, so happy that everyone loved it and to be honest “no food left behind”.

Just finding the incredible powerful influences of cooking, I go to the market every day and cook all meals by myself. Honestly, I cannot imagine all of the beneficial effects I acquire from cooking: I pick up Khmer language quickly and naturally without any instructions, I make acquaintance of the local people who are even not sure about the English number. After all, the most prominent thing is that I engage and integrate into new cultural environment.

Nearly one month from the day I arrived in Phnom Penh, I recognize some changes around my life. I do not cry like before because of missing home and friends, I start to enjoy the life here by inviting new friends to eat lunch/dinner with me in my room. While eating, we share and get closer together. Day by day, I love cooking and sharing more and more.
I was sure it would strongly enrich my future studies and help in my prospective career. Moreover I consider this programme as a great opportunity to get in touch with Viet Nam culture and educational system.

I would now like to concentrate on English and also languages. I am particularly interested in colonial literature, women, english and ASEAN culture. So, I believe being an exchange student would be great chance for me to exploring and knowing about ASEAN and International insight.

Moreover, being an exchange student provides my doors to invaluable opportunities. I thank SHARE Scholarship a million times for making my dream come true. The learning environment here is splendid; it allows me to get in touch with the local culture, which differs vastly from my culture back home. Although I’ve got used to going alone and far from home, it’s my first time leaving my country. Here I learn how to make a new ‘family,’ making home away from home. The people here are very friendly, and the school treats me warmly. I believe this is a turning point for me. This is a journey of life.

I recommend to all student all over the world to take the opportunity for study abroad. Because this is a journey like no one other you will experience in your life and there’s nothing impossible to be a part of the world.

I’ve been wanting this for many years and this is my first time going overseas. I was so excited I am studying Bachelor’s Degree programme in Faculty of Humanities at Universitas Indonesia and have decided to apply for exchange student programme SHARE Scholarship to Ho Chi Minh University of Technology and Education.
My name is Nur Halili Wahida Binti Halim. I am studying in Bachelor of Accounting at the National University of Malaysia. I applied for SHARE Scholarship to study abroad at University of Diponegoro Semarang Indonesia. New surrounding and culture is one of the most unique experiences I get in a lifetime. Indonesia is one country in each region in which different cultures and accents and where you can gain knowledge and outstanding experience.

Studying accounting in the Diponegoro University is going to help me acquire more skills and a broader perspective on how accounting is done. Studying abroad allows me to become a part of the culture of this country. It gives me opportunities to go on the field trips, visit interesting places, learn the new cultures especially I can learn Javanese language a little bit and make a new friend from the other countries. Indonesia is a great place for visit like Bali, Jakarta, Bandung with the cheap price.

I truly believe that getting an education abroad will enable me to become a better person in my homeland. It will allow me to share the knowledge and experience I gained from my friends in different countries such as Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam, learn their culture from a different perspective and be able to compare the way of life with my country. I learn many new things about the culture and the history of other countries.

I want to point out that studying abroad does not only broaden my mind but also teaches me how to cope with different situation. Most importantly, I will be able to meet a lot of different people and, in that way I improve my communication abilities.

In conclusion, I will say that studying abroad can improve your understanding of the world and give you wonderful experiences, which you will never forget.
This journey started when I saw and heard about this scholarship in my college. Who doesn’t know EU and ASEAN? They are the most successful regional integrations in the world now. Their offer about the SHARE Scholarship made me realize that when everyone gets a good education and can share it to other people, and not just in their own country, it will be the real goals of our community. That’s why I made my decision to choose an ASEAN country in this scholarship. Just like the main goals of EU, I want to improve the education equally in ASEAN. Similar to the name of this scholarship, Sharing knowledge and experience with each other is the best way to learn and gain understanding. I hope that with this good cooperation, EU and ASEAN can be a good example of partnership that will lead to better education all over the world.

Since the first time, I’m very amazed by the kindness and hospitality of Vietnamese people. Sometimes I even learn something important from them, like hard work, passion and enthusiasm. Maybe some of them can’t speak English fluently, but they always try even if just only one or two words. The Vietnamese deeply respect their culture and I was stunned when I saw the girls wearing their traditional clothes, Áo dài. After I was there for about one month, I also realized how rich the cultural diversity is in Vietnam. In class, I got so many new perspectives of knowledge from the lecturers and friends. We always share with each other what we know. Sometimes we share about serious topics like politics, economy and education, but sometimes we share fun and amazing topics like tourism attractions, hobbies, or even our personal secrets. We are always exchanging stories about our own countries as well.

I will never forget this experience and I hope I can apply what I got from this scholarship for a better world.
I wanted to be in the classrooms of Universitas Indonesia. I chose it for its facilities, most especially the library! I read up much about it online as I selected a university. The academe is competitive and it has an excellent academic ranking. I prepared and packed my bags soon, all thanks to SHARE Scholarship. However, no matter how much you try to prepare yourself, life can really surprise you.

Compared to Filipinos, Indonesians have a very strong mother tongue. This means that they speak in their local language the most. As a Sociology major, I can say that the country’s adherence to its culture and roots is very admiring but as an adventurer and a traveler? It was very challenging. I expected to be with a lot of locals, but I was taken aback by the number of exchange students there were from all around the world!

I made life-long friendships with students from Japan, Korea, Thailand, China, Netherlands, Germany, France, Lithuania, Finland, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam among others! We traveled a lot together to different places in Indonesia like the famous Jogjakarta, Surabaya, Lombok and Bali as some of our destinations. This experience made me a lot more socially responsible, learning to care about nature as well as to be culturally sensitive.

As an alumna, my advice for you is to be brave. Get out of your comfort zones, empty your cups to learn a lot and pursue your dreams! I remember that semester every day until now because it changed my life. I’m sure it will change yours too.

Adventure, different culture, new people. These were my reasons why I applied for SHARE Scholarship in 2016. I must admit, I didn’t know much about Indonesia, but that’s exactly the reason why I wanted to go. I felt excited to immerse myself in an environment where I could just be a sponge and absorb learnings because I didn’t have much expectations. After all, I was the first student to represent University of the Philippines in Indonesia. It was both an honor and a privilege.
Ria Destya Ningrum
Being one of the students from ASEAN who became a SHARE Scholarship Awardee is the biggest milestone I’ve achieved in my life right now. The idea of going abroad always excites me, but going abroad for the first time and to study in a prestigious university actually thrills me even more. This is one of the reason why I am in English Department taking American Studies which is studying about other country and other language hoping that I could have an opportunity go elsewhere in the world and discovered and practiced the things that I have learned and SHARE Scholarship Team had just helped turning this dream of mine into a reality by granting me a scholarship to study for a semester in Sweden.

I still remember it was already very difficult for me to get into one of the top universities in Indonesia after I finished high school, let alone getting into Uppsala University in Sweden which is one of the Top 100 Universities in the world for a semester study. By now, I have only spent two months in Sweden and I can already say that I’ve learned, did and witnessed a lot of things that I’ve never even thought of doing or seeing before in my twenty years of living in this world. I have always had classes with only fellow Indonesian students but here in Uppsala since there are thousands of international students, I had to experience how it is like to have classes and to study with people from Sweden, USA, Japan, Australia, Nigeria and so on and it is very interesting to have very diverse perspectives and point of views toward certain issue. The education system here also fascinates me. Uppsala University has a student portal where I can find all of my schedules and every changes to it, upload my assignments, register for examinations, download study materials and I was also able to know the syllabus and reading list for the courses that I will take months before the semester is even started. The professors will not just grade your assignments or exams results but being active in the class will worth 25% of your grade, so speaking up in the class is just as essential.

Sweden as a country taught me a lot of things as well. How they manage everything are so well thought of like reducing a cash use by leading a cashless society where you have to pay everything even when taking public transportation by using cards or phone application. Everywhere are so clean and you might find a lot of various trash cans for organic or inorganic waste along the streets. Pedestrians and bicyclists also have their own tracks and drivers are very considerate with them. They will slow down their car and stop when they know people want to cross sometimes even when you have not considered to cross the road.

I become a way more responsible person here. For example, since restaurants are very expensive, I have to cook and do grocery shopping by myself which to be honest I rarely do in Indonesia. I need to manage my financial expenses as well because apparently not only food that is expensive but everything is expensive. Living in a student corridor shared with 12 other students, you also have to be responsible in keeping the kitchen clean and emptying the bin. I don’t really have time to lay around lazily in bed for hours because almost everyone is so motivated. Going to libraries or campuses after school to study, read and work on assignments and still do that at home as well. In our free time, we usually go to events in Student Nations, do some physical activities or travel to other cities.

I am beyond thankful for the opportunity that the SHARE Scholarship has given to me and I will definitely recommend my fellow friends to participate in an opportunity like this cause for a girl from small village me where going abroad are still unusual, it has proven me that there is no limitation as long as you keep walking forward to your dreams.
Studying in another country is very competitive. I have to have basic knowledge in every field. For example, now I am studying Sociology (Anthropology at my home university), but I also have to know Mathematics, Biology, Physics and other natural science subjects. They all are interrelated. Learning tools are also a bit different from my home university. I have never known about blackboard learn, student portal and Nestor before. They all are very new for me and the new experience for me. I can also improve my reading skill during SHARE mobility periods. The most important thing that I can improve is my English skill. This is also important for every student who wants to study abroad.

When I was in Thailand during SHARE Batch 2, there was no prominent culture shock as Thailand and Myanmar have common culture. But during the first days in The Netherlands, I got a lot of cultural shocks. As Europe people love parties so much, most of my floormates at my housing make parties very often and I was annoyed about it. But now I understand that this is one the culture differences. And I can also adapt to this culture and love to celebrate with them.

For social experience, Dutch people are so direct in speaking. So, I thought Dutch are rude, but it is actually the good thing. Now I love it because when people tell me directly about their opinion, I can aware of it and I can improve my personality. Also Dutch people are very friendly and easy to accompany with them.

So, as I mentioned above, being a student in abroad is very beneficial. Especially being a SHARE awardee is so great and more beneficial as SHARE provides the full scholarship for every student. This is the great opportunity for ASEAN students. It is so bad if you miss this chance. I highly recommend all of the students who are interesting to study aboard to make your dream come true with SHARE Scholarship.

I’m Sai Phyoe Zin Aung, an Anthropology student from the University of Mandalay. This is my second time to be a SHARE awardee. In Batch 2, I was an exchange student at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand and now, in batch 3, I’m doing my exchange at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands. So, I will wrap up my two experiences into one testimonial.

The very first benefit of studying abroad with scholarship is we don’t have to ask money from our parent. Moreover, I have a chance to learn the world and improve my vision, self-confident, and self-awareness I could also travel a lot and see the new things in my host countries. In batch 3, now I can also travel around the Europe as well and meet a lot of people in different cultures and environments.
I have been taken four courses. Three of them related to my major of Accounting: Business Communication for Accounting, Management Accounting Seminar, and Accounting Research Methods. I have gained more confident and equipped with practical academic skills better than the past. An agent of change was my grade result not less than local students. It made me satisfied than what I expected before.

The cultural exchange program in the host university was full of warm and unforgettable time. To getting along well with each other I need to be more opened to understand about their traditional behaviors and cultures. We have learnt their traditional dance which has a little bit step the same with Lao. We understood and respected to each other’s religion and beliefs. We listened to each other. I do also showed them how ancient custom we have. I have shared them “Nop” correctly when they greet other people in Lao PDR and how to be gentle and polite when they visit Lao PDR.

Facing a lot of people from different part of Sabah and other countries that have different thoughts made me being more open-minded person. I had to try to understand and not judge the people around me. I need to have a high tolerance for other people’s culture and respect them without making any personal judgment. I become a very open-minded person, proven by what my friends think of me and we learned and respected from each other.

Being an exchange student was a valuable experience that I could have in my life. If you guys having the opportunity of being an exchange student do not hesitate, you will be life changing to be an exchange student.
I always dream to study abroad, because it gives me a lot of benefits such as: I can get a high credit system with my studying, build network with international students and I also get the new experience from foreign professors that can improve my knowledge.

When I selected as SHARE Awardee at The University of Santo, I can build my new relationships with my classmates here, they’re so friendly and assist me anytime I need. Moreover most of my professors here are lawyers, so I can get a lot of experiences of being a lawyer from them, because in the future I want to be a lawyer. I read a lot here and I’ve found a great system in The University of Santo Tomas is recitation, this system can let me always prepare before class, so I have to read a lot that why I can learn a lot about the legal system in Philippine.

I’ve stayed in Philippine around two months already, I fell like this is my home because most of people I knew here, they help me a lot and they never think I’m a foreigner, so I fell I’m at home now. The food are nice and delicious especially the street food. I like street food here because when I eat this kind of food, it fell like I am a populace and I like that feel. I go out with my classmate to drink coffee and do some assignments that is the social life for being a student here.

Finally, I suggest all the fellow students should build network with all the foreign students in our host university, because when we have international relationship, it will be good for our working. Please keep the good memories in our host university.

My name is Sem Vireakboth from The University of Cambodia, Cambodia. I am a batch 3 awardee of SHARE Scholarship in The University Of Santo Tomas, Philippines. Being an awardee of SHARE Programme, I’ve got many new experiences in my undergraduate life.
As a student who left my hometown in the province to the city alone in such a young age to pursue my dream, I have never expected to have any chance to travel the world before, but through SHARE Scholarship my dream is fulfilled and that got me out of my comfort zone.

SHARE Scholarship helped me realize how big the world is and allowed me to have incredibly experiences in Poland. Even, education systems in my host university were quite different from my home university, but I have never given up. I got to know new culture, new customs, new foods and other social experiences which were very different from my home country. Other than that, I also got to meet new friends with different backgrounds from all over the world.

SHARE Scholarship has made me more confident and independent by adapting to diverse situations. Therefore, it has helped me gain my ability to interact with other people which is very important for human being to have social connections. In addition, it makes me enhance my interest in global issues. To live in such a competitive community, confidence and social connections are maybe the essential things you need to have.

SHARE Scholarship mobility may have only 4 months, but those 4 months will make you never forgot the amazing experiences that you have met during your mobility. SHARE Scholarship can change our life forever.

If all of people around the world understand and know one another cultures by trying to live in different communities or different environments, it will make the world becomes a better place to live in.
JAKARTA, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme at Binus University

DEPOK, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme at University of Indonesia
DEPOK, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme at University of Indonesia

BOGOR, INDONESIA - Myat Phu Mon, SHARE Awardee Batch 2 from University of Mandalay, Myanmar is doing her field research study at Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia under SHARE Scholarship scheme
The SHARE Student Mobility Scheme

102 ASEAN-EU Scholarships
10 Countries
10 Universities

Inbound Students from ASEAN

Ireland: 9
Germany: 23
Sweden: 9
Poland: 16
Czech: 8
Austria: 2
Spain: 2
Netherlands:

Map shows the distribution of scholarships among countries.
489 INTRA-ASEAN SCHOLARSHIPS

8 COUNTRIES

32 UNIVERSITIES

* EU funding rules for SHARE currently do not allow giving scholarships to students from Brunei Darussalam and Singapore

** See SHARE Partner Universities here: wwwSHARE-asean.org
List of SHARE Partner Universities
## 32 ASEAN universities:

**Cambodia**
- Royal University of Phnom Penh
- University of Cambodia
- Phnom Penh International University
- National University of Management Cambodia

**Myanmar**
- University of Yangon
- Mandalay University
- Myanmar Maritime University
- Yangon University of Economics

**Indonesia**
- Universitas Indonesia
- Universitas Diponegoro
- Bogor Agricultural University
- Bina Nusantara University

**Philippines**
- University of the Philippines
- University of Santo Tomas
- De La Salle University
- Ateneo de Manila University

**Lao PDR**
- National University of Laos
- Savannakhet University
- Souphanouvong University
- Champasack University

**Thailand**
- Chulalongkorn University
- Payap University
- King Mongkut’s University of Technology Thonburi
- Thammasat University

**Malaysia**
- Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia
- Taylor’s University Malaysia
- Universiti Teknologi Malaysia
- Universiti Malaysia Sabah

**Viet Nam**
- Viet Nam National University
- Hanoi University of Science and Technology
- Ho Chi Minh University of Technology and Education
- Hue University

## 10 European universities:

- University of Applied Sciences Upper Austria, Austria
- University of Ghent, Belgium
- Université Paul Sabatier – Toulouse III, France
- University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany
- University College Cork, Ireland
- University of Groningen, The Netherlands
- Warsaw School of Economics, Poland
- Uppsala University, Sweden
- University of Murcia, Spain
- Tomas Bata University, Czech Republic
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Advisor - International Projects

Maria Kelo  
Director

Paula Ranne  
Deputy Director

Tia Loukkola  
Director, Institutional Management Unit
DEPOK, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees during mobility programme at University of Indonesia

BOGOR, INDONESIA - Nadzirah Mohd Yunus, SHARE Awardee Batch 2 from University of Malaysia, Sabah studies for one semester at Bogor Agricultural University, Indonesia
ASEAN SECRETARIAT, INDONESIA - SHARE Awardees from different ASEAN nationalities who study in Indonesia for one semester
KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA - 26-27 October 2016 - SHARE team join forces to organise the Fourth Policy Dialogue
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