



PRESS RELEASE

BOOSTING ASEAN STUDENT MOBILITY SHARE What Works Conference 2018

Phnom Penh, 30 May 2018 – The European Union Ambassador to Cambodia, H.E. George Edgar and the Secretary of State of Cambodia's Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport, H.E. Yuok Ngoy, today open a two-day conference on the European Union support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region under SHARE programme.

120 officials from ASEAN and EU experts in Higher Education and Credit Transfer System, university leaders, and high level education officials are taking part in these two-day SHARE conference, which aims to provide participants with insights into important issues such as the current educational policy, successful innovation and good practices, as implemented within the ASEAN region as well as in Europe. Panellists also share inspirational examples of institutional strategy development and an understanding of the conditions for implementation and practical impact.

SHARE is programme funded by the EU in cooperation with ASEAN aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and enhancing the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students. It also provides a reference point for ASEAN by learning from the EU's success in harmonising its higher education system, in order to build on best practices and existing SHARE platforms of the region. Moreover, the development of higher education in the region will stimulate intra-ASEAN student mobility.

"I am delighted to see the EU experience on credit transfer has played a crucial role in enabling student mobility in ASEAN and building an ASEAN identity in higher education. The SHARE programme supplements the many opportunities available for Cambodia through Erasmus Plus programme. It also complements the substantial support of the EU to the education sector in Cambodia. The EU and the Ministry of Education Youth and Sport have a long term partnership", said the European Union Ambassador to Cambodia H.E. George Edgar.

The SHARE Credit Transfer System has been piloted through the implementation of the SHARE Scholarships. Since 2016, the SHARE programme has awarded a total of 400 scholarships for students from 8 ASEAN countries to undertake a short-term study in 32 ASEAN universities, and 100 scholarships for ASEAN students to study in 8 universities in Europe.



According to H.E. Yuok Ngoy, Secretary of State, Ministry of Youth, and Sport of Cambodia, “Internationalisation through credit transfer system and student mobility brings benefits countries and the ASEAN region through its impact on the economy, innovation and human resources. ASEAN’s effort to improve the higher education space within the region are of great importance in an ever more globalised world. Establishing a global standard in higher education will also allow the young population to be involved in this fast-paced labour markets resulting in secure economic growth and international economic competitiveness for ASEAN.”

More than 1,400 students, 250 international relation officers, and 42 ASEAN and EU Higher Education Institutions are now using the SHARE online platform and its fully digitalised mobility tools. This platform enables students to apply for SHARE scholarships, prepare their mobility, and facilitate the transfer of credits. Thanks to this online device, communication between both sending and receiving higher education institutions and with students has improved. SHARE provides assistance to all platform users and trains ASEAN Universities International Offices to use it.

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For media inquiries, please contact:

- **SHARE Programme Management Office:** Elita Yunanda, Tel.: +62 (21) 726 2991 ext. 401, Email: elita.yunanda@britishcouncil.or.id
- **Delegation of the European Union to Cambodia:** Pok Poun, Tel.: +855 (0) 23 216 996, Email: pok.poun@eeas.europa.eu
- **Ministry of Education, Youth, and Sport (MOEYS), Cambodia:** Bunry Rinna, Tel.: +855 12 600 281, Email: rinnabunry@gmail.com



Background Information:

European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region, or SHARE is programme funded by the European Union in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat. The programme has the broad remit to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance the quality, competitiveness and internationalisation of ASEAN higher education institutions and students, contributing to an ASEAN Community beyond 2015.

SHARE activities in Credit Transfer System (CTS) for ASEAN, build upon existing credit systems in the region, emphasise comparability and compatibility of study-programmes and enhance student mobility through the implementation of mechanisms and tools. The SHARE CTS aims at facilitating recognition and transfer of students' learning achievements abroad. Through the SHARE Scholarship Scheme, The SHARE CTS has been tested and improved during 3 years. Now, the system plays an important role in the further internationalisation and harmonisation of higher education in the ASEAN region.

Student mobility is now seen as a critical factor for global competitiveness. It is an important element to grow talent and human capital for economic and social developments. The trend of student mobility in ASEAN is projected to continue its upward trend, in particular with the fact that transnational education is gaining traction in the region since SHARE Student Mobility was launched in 2016. More than 220,000 students from ASEAN countries studied overseas in 2013 — a significant increase from 166,000 students in 2009.ⁱⁱ In line with The QS Global Employer Survey Report found that six out of ten employers around the world give extra credit for an international student experience and more than 80 percent said that they actively sought graduates who had studied abroad.ⁱⁱⁱ The Erasmus Report found that 92 percent of employers indicated that they were looking for the sort of “transversal skills” or soft skills that study abroad helps develop.^{iv}

ⁱ ASEAN Secretariat (2017), “Higher education in ASEAN to enhance student mobility in the region,” retrieved from <http://asean.org/higher-education-in-asean-to-enhance-student-mobility-in-the-region/>

ⁱⁱ UNESCO Institute for Statistics (2014), “Higher Education in Asia: Expanding Out, Expanding Up – The Rise of Graduate Education and University Research,” retrieved from: <<http://uis.unesco.org/sites/default/files/documents/higher-education-in-asia-expanding-out-expanding-up-2014-en.pdf>>

ⁱⁱⁱ IIE and AIFS Foundation, (2018), “Study Abroad Matters : Linking Higher Education to the Contemporary Workplace through International Experience”, Global Education Research Reports

^{iv} *Ibid.*

