

**REPORT of the 13<sup>th</sup>. INTER-UNIVERSITY COOPERATION PROGRAM  
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE “ASIAN COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE  
NETWORKS for the ECONOMY, SOCIETY, CULTURE, and ENVIRONMENTAL  
STABILITY” held during 8 – 12 JULY 2017 in MIYAZAKI, JAPAN**

**Background**

Looking back since the beginning of the first International Conference in 2005 held in Chiangrai province, Thailand, the Conference was structured around small the regional work of the Inter-governmental Organizations in particular the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations in linking with the rural community activities and presentation to allow all participants to enter into practical discussion. We received assistance from Japan Foundation, the Office of Higher Education Commission and National Research Council of Thailand. The 2<sup>nd</sup>. International Conference, we had co-host universities from Royal University of Phnom Penh and Build Bright University with the assistance from Country Representative of UNESCO Cambodian Office, Office of Higher Education Commission and National Research Council of Thailand, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia, SEAMEO – RIHED, University of Hawaii, USA. The 3<sup>rd</sup>. International Conference was held in Vietnam with the co-host of Ho Chi Minh City Open University, the MOU was signed with HCMCOP as well as the MOU was signed with an active involvement of President of Huntington University, Ontario, Canada. The 4<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held in southern part of People’s Republic of China under co-host of Yuxi Normal University with many research papers presented from various universities in Thailand as well as the Chinese counterparts from Yunnan University, Xichuan Banna Technical College. The 5<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held in Mumbai, India with the co-host of SNTD Women’s University, Yuxi Normal University, Ho Chi Minh City Open University and Huntington University. The outcome of this Conference, has been adopted to use terminology “Inter-University Cooperation Program” in order to promote international understanding with the purpose to strengthen “Knowledge Networks” in the regions. The 6<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was jointly organized under the co-host Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia with active involvement of Faculty of Economics and Business. The 7<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held in Sri Lanka under the co-host of University of Kelaniya, it was the highest participation of 35 universities from ASEAN, GMS, Asia Pacific countries, USA, Japan and Canada. The 8<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held under the co-host of Kyunghee University, Seoul, Republic of Korea with active involvement of Professor Dr, Jung Sup Kim, Dean of Institute of the International College. The 9<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held under the co-host of University of Brunei Darussalam along with the study visit to University of Malasia Sabah. The 10<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held under the co-host of 5 universities in Mandalay, the Union Of Myanmar; University of Mandalay, University of Computer Studies, Yadanabon University, Mandalay Education College and Yezin Agricultural University in Nay Pyi Taw. The study visit was hosted by Yezin Agricultural University where participants had a chance to observe an experiment of new rice variety for export to Japan. The 11<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held

under the co-host of Kathmandu University, Tribhuvan University, Pokhara University and Huntington University. The MOU was signed with Kathmandu University in an agreement for exchanging collaborated researches. The study visits were made around the exotic world heritages and natural environment mountainous surroundings as well as the socio-economic situation of the local communities. It was after 3 weeks of the Conference there was a shock incidence of the Gorkha Earthquake of moment magnitude 7.8 on 25 April 2015 and again on 12 May 2015 major after shock of magnitude 7.3 hit Dolkha, Nepal. The 12<sup>th</sup>. International Conference was held under the co-host of University of the Philippines International Linkage consisting of University of the Philippines, Diliman, University of the Philippines, Los Banos, University of the Philippines, Quezon city. The MOU was signed representing Assistant Professor Dr. Thosapol Arreenich, President of Chiang Rai Rajabhat University and Professor Dr. Professor Dr. Alfredo Pascual, President of University of the Philippines. This signed MOU will cover the academic cooperation in 8 UP system.

The aforementioned is the brief background information of the International Conference since the first in 2006 until the present time, 10 years from now. The Conference has accumulated quite a number of research papers which has been published about 12 books comprising more than 1,000 articles. The proceedings as published in the form of books had been circulated to the university libraries in Thailand, ASEAN and GMS countries as well as sent to the Embassy of the United of America in Bangkok for documented in the Library of Congress.

**The Overwhelming Success – The Lessons Learned from the 13<sup>th</sup>. International Conference “ASIAN Community Knowledge Networks for the Economy, Society, Culture, and Environmental Stability” held in Miyazaki, Japan, during 8 – 12 July 2017.**

Under the co-host of the University of Miyazaki with leadership of the President Professor Dr. Tsuyomu Ikenoue, M.D. – the task for will be a specialized university in the slogan “*Look at the World, Start with the Community*” , the Conference was also graciously involved by Miyazaki International College, Japan, Kathmandu University, Nepal, Huntington University, Canada, and Dhonburi Rajabhat University, Thailand. This was an excellent combination of *Strengthening Knowledge Networks*.

The duration of the Conference was 8 – 12 July 2017. The venue of the Conference “Phonix Seagaia Convention Center” was recommended by University of Miyazaki and Miyazaki Convention & Visitor Bureau, Mr. Tetsuhiro Yanagita, Secretary General, MICE Promotion Department. The participants stayed at Sheraton Grande Ocean Resort where all rooms facing the Pacific Ocean.

This year the Conference welcomed 17 universities from Thailand, 3 universities from the Philippines, 2 universities from Japan, 1 university from Nepal, 1 university from Canada. There were many interesting research papers comprising 11 sub-themes, totaled 118 papers. There were

participants representing their respective countries; Japan, Tanzania, Tonga, Egypt, Indonesia, Nepal, Philippines, Poland, Thailand, Canada.

The Opening Session on 10 July 2017 started with the welcome speech of Professor Dr. Tsuyomu Ikenoue, President of University of Miyazaki, expressed the honor to be the host and delighted that Miyazaki Prefecture has been chosen as the first Japanese venue for this Conference. Followed by Assistant Professor Dr. Sornchai Mungthaisong, President of Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, as hosting this auspicious event is truly an honor especially 100 representatives from the scientific and research communities come to participate of ASEAN Plus stakeholders in Japan. A strong commitment keynote speech of Professor Dr. Kevin McCormick, Vice Chancellor and President of Huntington University has confirmed his dedication that the knowledge networks should be continued through efforts of the representing institutions presented in this Conference. Professor Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, Vice Chancellor of Kathmandu University had admired the gathering was truly reflective of the very essence of Asia – the unity within diversity, the coherence within complexity, and the promise within adversity.

As has been the high lights of every year, under the consideration of the International Conference Organizing Committee, there were 8 recipients eligible for the Best Practice Award, presented the plaques of honor by President of Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, followed by the Maple Leaf Scholar Award presented by Professor Dr. Kevin McCormick, Vice Chancellor and President of Huntington University. The magnificent events were the signing MOU between University of Miyazaki and Chiang Rai Rajabhat University, as well as the renewal long standing friendship signing MOU between Chiang Rai Rajabhat University and Huntington University. There will be a follow up of MOU with the active movement of the joint research among Thai universities and the counterpart universities.

### **The resolution and agenda for future action**

The representatives of the participating universities agreed that there should be the focus for developing academic pursuits more oriented towards implementation. This consideration was in conjunction with many research works presented in the Conference indicated more application in successful experiment in the laboratories as well as on the creative invention that the users could make good use oriented towards industrialization.

A very impressive remarks of Professor Dr. Ram Kantha Makaju Shrestha, President of Kathmandu University, Nepal, has proposed three principles;

**First** is an emphasis on equality, while we cherish the accomplishment, we cannot ignore the inequalities that are still prevalent within and between our societies.

**Second** is the focus for developing academic pursuit more oriented toward implementation. We need to redefine the role of a university from an institution that generates and disseminates knowledge to an institution that additionally implements knowledge as well.

**Third** is the need of innovation in collaboration. We need to be creative in exploring and establishing opportunities of collaboration, academic and research opportunities, exchange possibilities, affiliation, creation of regional centers of excellence.

The participants agreed and adopted for the future resolution *“as one community of academicians, we can define and decide the future we want to see through the hearts and minds of the people we are committed to serve”*.