

**ASEAN University Network
Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network**

AUN/SEED-Net

Implementation Guidelines and
Application Form
for
Doctoral Degree Program in Japan

For the Japanese Fiscal Year 2015

AUN/SEED-Net Project

As of July, 2014

1. Project Background

The concept of the SEED-Net evolved at the ASEAN-Japan Summit Meeting held in December 1997 and the central issue became how to upgrade higher engineering education by way of creating engineering institutions' networks ASEAN-wide. As a result of a series of discussions and preparations between ASEAN Member Countries and Japan, the ASEAN University Network/Southeast Asia Engineering Education Development Network (AUN/SEED-Net) was established in 2001 as a sub-network of ASEAN University Network (AUN).

After two years of preparation, full-scale operation started in March 2003 for five years as the Phase 1 cooperation, which was then followed by another five year project as the Phase 2 cooperation, supported by Japanese Government through Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

In the last decade the AUN/SEED-Net has supported young academic staff of Member Institutions to acquire higher degrees (master's degree and/or Ph.D.) by providing them opportunities to study at leading Member Institutions in the region or at supporting universities in Japan. As a result, around 900 academic staff have already obtained opportunities to study for higher degrees, with most of these having returned to teach students at universities in their respective countries. At the same time, the project has strengthened the research capacity of academic staff in ASEAN Member Countries by supporting collaborative research, academic staff exchange, academic conference, "ASEAN Engineering Journal" and so on. As a result, around 700 collaborative research projects have been undertaken, and more than 1,000 academic papers have been published. Over 1,300 in total academic staff have also participated in exchange programs between Member Institutions in the network. Through these activities the AUN/SEED-Net has succeeded in strengthening the engineering faculties of each Member Institution.

Based on these remarkable achievements, the ASEAN Member Countries, Member Institutions, the Government of Japan and JICA have a strong intention to continue the AUN/SEED-Net aiming to bring about larger impacts not only to other universities in the region and Japan, but also to industry and community by making more direct contribution to the socio-economic development in the region and Japan. After continuous discussion, all parties agreed to implement the Phase 3 Project of AUN/SEED-Net with these following objectives :

- (1) Contribution to advancement and globalization of regional industry
- (2) Contribution to solution of regional common issues in Asia
- (3) Establishment of human resource development platform in science and technology in Asia

2. Program Concept

AUN/SEED-Net provides scholarships for qualified applicants from AUN-SEED/Net Member Institutions to pursue doctoral degrees in engineering at one of the following Japanese Supporting Universities in the network.

- **Hokkaido University**
- **Kyoto University**
- **National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies**
- **Keio University**
- **Kyushu University**
- **Shibaura Institute of Technology**

- Tokai University
- Toyohashi University of Technology
- Waseda University
- Nagoya University
- Tokyo Institute of Technology
- The University of Tokyo
- Tohoku University
- Osaka University

The fields of study that can be supported by the AUN/SEED-Net are as follows:

- Chemical Engineering (ChE)
- Computer and Information Engineering (CIE)
- Geological and Geo-resources Engineering (GeoE)
- Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering (ME/ManuE)
- Environmental Engineering (EnvE)
- Civil Engineering (CE)
- Electrical and Electronics Engineering (EEE)
- Materials Engineering (MatE)
- Energy Engineering (EneE)
- Natural Disaster (ND)

Although studying outside ASEAN countries, students under the Doctoral Degree Program in Japan are encouraged to participate in AUN/SEED-Net's network activities (e.g. AUN/SEED-Net Regional Conference, Collaborative Research activities, etc.) as to create, maintain, and deepen the linkage with Member Institutions (student's sending institution and/or student's hosting institution when pursued master's degree).

3. Objectives

- (1) To increase the number of high qualified doctoral degree holders and academic staff in engineering at Member Institutions to contribute to a sustainable industrial development of ASEAN countries through conducting highly qualified education and researches.
- (2) To strengthen the network of teaching and research staff among Member Institutions and Japanese Supporting Universities.

4. Applicant Eligibility

- (1) Applicants must have a research-based master's degree in relevant engineering field or to be awarded the master's degree before starting doctoral degree study.
- (2) Applicants should be ranked within top 15% of the class for Bachelor's Degree, in principle, (a certified document of class rank is required).
- (3) Applicant should have a Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3 or more in the 4-scale grading system or at least 7.5 in the 10-scale grading system.
- (4) Applicants must be outstanding graduates of Master's Degree Program of AUN/SEED-Net Project, or outstanding young teaching staff or research staff of Member Institutions, who are strongly motivated to have a professional career as teaching staff at Member Institutions.
- (5) Applicants, in principle, should have at least one recent (not older than 2 years) research publication in refereed national or international journal.
- (6) Applicants must have some English competency (TOEFL score or equivalent test is required).

(7) Applicants must be under the age of 35 at the time of enrollment and capable of carrying out independent research.

5. Target Number of Scholarships

Around 20 scholarships for the Japanese Fiscal Year 2015 will be supported. The scholarships, in principle, should be distributed across fields.

6. Coverage of the Scholarships

Tuition fees, living allowance, health insurance, and a round-trip air ticket will be provided as per JICA regulations.

7. Commencement and Duration of Scholarships

The commencement of scholarship should be within the Japanese Fiscal Year 2015; that is, awarded students should commence their study within April 2015 – March 2016. It is expected that the enrolment of successful candidates will take place between September 2015 and March 2016.

The duration of the scholarship is strictly three years, counting from the date of arrival in Japan. Students who need more than three years to acquire a degree should be self-finance during period of extension.

8. Portrait Rights

The applicant agrees to the condition that AUN/SEED-Net has the right to use photos of the person engaged in AUN/SEED-Net activities for advertising or promotional purposes of PR and reporting without consent for each individual case.

9. Application for Scholarships

The application procedure is as follows:

9.1 Application and screening process

(1) The applicants for the Doctoral Degree Program in Japan submit AUN/SEED-Net's Application Form for Scholarship together with other required documents to the contact person of the Member Institutions where the applicants belong (Sending Institutions). Please refer to Application Form of the Doctoral Degree Program in Japan 2015, Item No. 12-13.. List of contact person at each Member Institution is given in Attachment 3. Please note that at this stage, applicants are required to submit names of their proposed Japanese advisors and Japanese Supporting Universities, but there is no need to submit application form of those universities.

(2) The contact person of each Sending Institution sends a collection of Application Forms endorsed by Member Institution to AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat. An individual application directly sent to AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat will not be accepted. However, Sending Institutions could submit the

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collection of application forms more than once before the Deadline.

- (3) In case of applicants studying overseas at the time of applying, Application Forms as well as other required documents can be submitted directly to AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat. However, the endorsement letter is requested to submit to AUN/SEED-Net Secretariat by contact person at the Sending Institution.
- (4) AUN/SEED-Net will check all required documents. Failure to submit the regarded documents will not be entitled to be considered for the screening.
- (5) AUN/SEED-Net will conduct initial screening and send the results to applicants' Sending Institutions. At the same time, AUN/SEED-Net will consult with Japanese Supporting Universities for possibility of accepting the applicant, under condition that the applicant passes official entrance examination of the Japanese University.
- (6) *Applicants are encouraged to contact a prospective advisor at a Japanese Supporting University by themselves for consent on acceptance once the applicants are awarded a scholarship. All applicants have to obtain consent letter (or copy of e-mail communication) from a prospective advisor.
- (7) After the communication with Japanese Supporting Universities, AUN/SEED-Net summarizes the applicants list and sends the result to JICA Headquarters. JICA Headquarters then make the decision on the selection of the successful applicants by April 2015.
- (8) AUN/SEED-Net informs the results of successful candidates to Sending Institution in April 2015.
- (9) The process after sending the official notifications may differ among countries or Japanese universities. AUN/SEED-Net, in cooperation with the JICA Office in the respective countries, will advise the scholarship awardees on the necessary procedures.

9.2 Official request from a member country to the Japanese Government

- (1) JICA Headquarters will instruct JICA Office in the member country of the successful applicant to submit the JICA Application Form. The Form should be prepared by the successful candidate with the endorsement of his/her Sending Institution and submitted to the Embassy of Japan or the JICA office in each country through the coordinating ministry or agency responsible for international cooperation in the country.
- (2) When the JICA Application Form is endorsed by the Member Institution, a photocopy of the form should be sent directly to the AUN/SEED-Net Project.
- (3) After receiving the JICA Application Form, JICA will examine the candidacy and send an official notice of acceptance or rejection to the government concerned.

10. Submission Deadline of the Application Form

Applications for the Doctoral Degree Program in Japan should be submitted both in hard and soft copy (Word, PDF or JPEG format), **by October 15 (Wednesday) ,2014** to the AUN/SEED-Net Project. They must be signed by the Dean or the Representative of the AUN/SEED-Net Member Institution to which the applicants originally belong.

11. Remarks

Applicants to the Doctoral Degree Program in Japan should take note of the followings;

11.1 Management of Technology (MOT)

AUN/SEED-Net recognizes it is essential for PhD students to understand how engineering can contribute to the society, especially in the industrial sectors, and should conduct research activities from this viewpoint. AUN/SEED-Net therefore encourages all students under the project to take a course in MOT during their study at their Host Institutions, if available.

11.2 Health Check-up Certificate

Applicants must submit the health check-up certificate before proposed departure date. Applicants who are pregnant or suffer from chronic diseases, e.g., respiratory illness, cardiac disease, metabolic disease (diabetes, etc.), renal dysfunction and immune insufficiency (systemic steroid administration, etc.) shall not be approved of the visit to Japan in principal.

11.3 Result

Only successful candidates will be contacted through Member Institutions by AUN/SEED-Net.

Please submit the application to:

AUN/SEED-Net Project
(Doctoral Degree Program in Japan 2015)
Faculty of Engineering, Bldg 2, Rm 109-110,
Chulalongkorn University
Bangkok 10330, THAILAND
Tel: +662-218-6419-21
Fax: +662-218-6418
Email : phdjapan@aun-seed.net