



PRESS RELEASE

Building regional recognition to create more synergies AECTS capacity building workshop for SHARE universities

Manila, 19 June 2019 – The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Philippines, represented by Director Atty Lily Freida Milla and the Delegation of the European Union to the Philippines, represented by First Secretary Jérôme Rivière, today opened a two-day workshop on the European Union's support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (SHARE) programme.

The workshop focuses on improving higher education institutions' general knowledge and preparation of the ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System (AECTS) for those institutions participating in SHARE.

The AECTS capacity-building workshop is a unique chance given to SHARE Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) to further develop institutional capacity in credit transfer with the support of mobility processes and an online platform developed by SHARE. The AECTS processes and tools will be reviewed and illustrated through case studies.

According to Atty Milla, "I am delighted to see ASEAN and the EU's effort through SHARE enabling student mobility in ASEAN and building an ASEAN identity in higher education. In terms of academic credit transfer, experts suggest to focus on the individual needs of the learner so that institutions should not put unnecessary burden in the way of learning. Above all, SHARE programme complements the substantial support of the education sector in Philippines."

"From the EU experience, credit transfer plays a crucial role in instilling student mobility. In this case, the AECTS is compatible with ASEAN national and European systems, and fosters comparability as well as inclusiveness. Based on the lessons learnt in the pilot stage, the AECTS is now ready for further dissemination and participation from more universities and students. It is now an opportunity for the SHARE programme to gradually transfer the system to an institution in ASEAN who will operate the system in the long run.", said Mr. Rivière.

This workshop is addressed to all 32 higher education institutions currently participating in SHARE. It brings together 60 representatives from their International Relations (IRO) and Academic Affairs Offices who are already familiar with this tool.

The AECTS has been piloted through the implementation of the SHARE Scholarships.

Since 2016, SHARE has awarded over 550 scholarships for ASEAN undergraduate students from eight ASEAN countries* to undertake a short-term study in ASEAN and Europe. Of this number, 75 inbound students and five outbound students are from the Philippines.

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About SHARE

ASEAN and the 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 British Council (lead), Campus France, the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Nuffic and the European Association for Quality Assurance in Higher Education (ENQA) implements SHARE on behalf of ASEAN and the EU from 2015 to 2019. SHARE's work can be grouped in five areas:

- **Policy Dialogues (PDs)**: supporting the harmonisation 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-EU Credit Transfer System (AECTS)**: building on existing credit transfer systems (CTS), SHARE is setting up a common system for 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 five student intakes by providing scholarships to some 500 ASEAN students for credit mobility within ASEAN and in the EU.

Background Information:

European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region, or SHARE, is a 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 over the last four 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 in growing talent and human capital for economic and social development. The trend of student mobility in ASEAN is projected to continue its upward trend, in particular with transnational education gaining traction in the region in recent years. More than 220,000 students from ASEAN countries studied overseas in 2013 — a significant increase from the 166,000 students in 2009.ⁱ In line with The QS Global Employer Survey Report, six out of ten employers globally, give extra credit for an international student experience and more than 80 percent said that they actively sought graduates who had studied abroad.ⁱⁱ 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.ⁱⁱⁱ

ⁱ 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>>

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

ⁱⁱⁱ *Ibid.*