

Press Release

The 4th Bi-regional SEA-EU-NET Stakeholder Conference, a significant event promoting ASEAN – EU cooperation on research and technology development under the [EU's Seventh Framework Program \(FP7\)](#), was held from 16-17 November 2011 in Hanoi. The Conference was presented by Mr. Le Dinh Tien - Vice Minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam, Mr. Tran Viet Thanh, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam, Mr. Franz Jessen - Ambassador Designate, Head of EU Delegation to Vietnam, Mr. Syamsa Ardisasmita - Deputy Minister of Research and Technology of Indonesia, Mr. Roman Iwaszkiewicz - Ambassador of the Republic of Poland in Vietnam, Mr. Damien Cole - Ambassador of the Republic of Ireland in Vietnam and 246 participants and representatives from international organizations, S&T management agencies, research institutes, universities and companies from 11 EU countries and 9 SEA countries.

The 4th Bi-regional SEA-EU-NET Stakeholder Conference focused on: Exchanging policy and scientific perspectives on STI cooperation between EU and SEA; Sharing successful stories of S&T cooperation between the two regions; Developing a platform to encourage synergy for ongoing bilateral and multilateral projects; and addressing emerging challenges, including ecological footprint, green/sustainable city development, water security and management, which concern both regions and require joint research cooperation.

International cooperation in S&T is regarded by ASEAN countries as a crucial policy device for achieving sustainable economic growth and tackling global challenges such as climate change and the cross-border spread of infectious diseases, etc.. In this regard, “EU has been considered as an important bi-regional partner in STI cooperation. South East Asia and EU have established the S&T collaboration partnership for years which is highlighted in the cooperation under of 7th Framework Programme for research and development funded by the EU”, said Mr. Le Dinh Tien, Vice Minister of Science and Technology of Vietnam at the Conference’s Opening Ceremony.

EU Ambassador Designated in Vietnam, Mr. Franz Jessen, also reiterated the importance of fostering strategic cooperation through bi-regional programmes in the EU strategy for international STI cooperation. “We see ASEAN as a very promising regional partner in this respect. In fact, the status and role of the EU as a scientific partner for ASEAN has been reinforced over the past four years, with initiatives as the bi-regional Science and Technology dialogue, which was established in 2008 with the ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology (ASEAN-COST)”, said Ambassador Franz Jessen.

The 4th Bi-regional SEA-EU-NET Stakeholder Conference also served as the official launch of the ASEAN-EU Year of Science, Technology and Innovation 2012 – YoSTI 2012, a new initiative to foster bi-regional STI cooperation comprehensively. YoSTI 2012 will promote and extend the reach of scientific cooperation between EU and ASEAN. By focusing on topics of strategic importance to both regions as well as being of global relevance, the Year

will give greater impact and higher visibility of S&T cooperation between ASEAN and Europe. YoSTI 2012 will help catalyse ASEAN and EU Member States' joint strategies and activities, which are numerous but still quite unknown. It will also make Europe more attractive and bring it closer to ASEAN researchers and research organisations as well as push forward the quick progress of ASEAN-EU S&T cooperation and the sound and stable development of the two regions strategic partnership. So far, more than 30 international events have been scheduled to be organized under the brand of YoSTI 2012. This number will increase in the coming time as YoSTI 2012 has been acknowledged and supported in all EU and ASEAN countries, making it a synergy for promoting bi-regional STI cooperation.

Some photos at the Conference



Mr. Le Dinh Tien, Vice Minister of Science and Technology at the Opening Ceremony



Plenary Session



Mr. Franz Jessen, EU Ambassador Designate to Vietnam speaks at the Opening Ceremony



Plenary Session



Mr. Tran Viet Thanh, Vice Minister of Science and Technology declared the official launch of YoSTI 2012



Group Photo

Information about SEA-EU-NET project



The “SEA-EU-NET” project has been set up to expand scientific collaboration between Europe and Southeast Asia in a more strategic and coherent manner. The project was launched in January 2008 and implemented for a period of 5 years with funding from the 7th Framework Program for Research and Technology Development. It primarily aims at increasing the quality, quantity, profile and impact of Science and Technology (S&T) cooperation between the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Member- and Associated States of the EU. SEA-EU-NET fosters cooperation enabling a joint European and South East Asian approach and providing strengthened solutions to global problems such as climate change and the environment, energy and infectious diseases, etc.

Furthermore, SEA-EU-NET promotes international collaboration by creating bi-regional policy dialogue, scientific matchmaking and increased participation in the Seventh Framework Program (collaborative funding scheme of the European Commission).

SEA-EU-NET organizes an annual stakeholder conference with the participation of S&T policy makers, researchers, etc. to discuss and identify key topics of bi-regional interest and opportunities for collaboration. Three annual conferences have been held in Paris, Bali and Budapest. The 4th Bi-regional SEA-EU-NET Stakeholder Conference is held in Hanoi, from 16-17 November 2011.

More information on SEA-EU-NET is available at: www.sea-eu.net

Information about YoSTI 2012



ASEAN-EU Year of Science, Technology and Innovation 2012 is a year long campaign to deepen S&T collaboration between Europe and Southeast Asia. The year, which has been officially endorsed by the ASEAN Committee of Science and Technology and the European Commission/DG RTD, will celebrate existing S&T relationships, and build upon these to develop the next generation of research partnerships. The year will increase awareness of the importance of biregional collaboration within the broader research community, as well as opening up new opportunities for researchers to link up and work together.

A series of activities and events will be launched within the year that will develop the strategic partnership between the two regions, increase awareness of the importance of ASEAN and EU science collaboration and increase the impact and number of collaborations.

Although the year sets clear new impulses for academic cooperation, there are already many examples of fruitful scientific collaborations and linkages between researchers in the ASEAN and EU. Such partnerships are beneficial to all parties involved, and the resulting advancements in research delivers improved quality of living, life saving medicines and economic returns to both regions.

By concentrating efforts on topics of strategic importance to both regions, as well as being of global relevance, it will give S&T cooperation between ASEAN and EU greater impact and higher visibility. This bi-regional Year of Science, Technology and Innovation is the first of its kind and will be an important step to build up a long-term partnership between ASEAN and EU.

More information about YoSTI 2012 is available at: www.yearofscience2012.com