



The 20th ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting Summary

The 20th ASEA-UNINET Plenary Meeting, held in Brescia, Italy (8–12 September 2025) under the theme “for a peaceful and sustainable development”, marked a milestone in expanding and renewing the network. Eight institutions joined as Candidate Members—bringing Romania and Timor Leste into the network for the first time. Five universities, including Walailak University (Thailand) and Universitas Padjadjaran (Indonesia), advanced to Full Member status. Attending the event from SUT, were Dr. Mullika Sungsanit, Vice Rector for Engagement, Innovation and Entrepreneurship, who was the ASEA-UNINET National Coordinator for Thailand, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rapee Utke, Director of the Institute of Research and Development, and Asst. Prof. Dr. Wipawee Usaha, Director of the Center for International Affairs.



DR. MULLIKA SUNGSANIT

The 16th ASEA-UNINET President

Leadership also transitioned as **Dr. Mullika Sungsanit** of **SUT**, Thailand, was elected President, the **third Thai** to hold the role since 1994. Today, the network consists of 92 universities from 14 countries. Her appointment signals a strong commitment to advancing academic innovation, peace, and sustainability.

Plenary working groups addressed global challenges in areas such as digital humanism, ocean sciences, renewable energy, global health, and the bioeconomy, highlighting universities' roles in shaping sustainable futures. Looking ahead, **Thailand** will host the **21st Plenary Meeting** in **February 2027**, in **Khao Yai**.



SUT Leads for ASEA-UNINET Working Groups

i. Digital Humanism and Arts in Academia

Asst. Prof. Dr. Nisachol Chamnongsri

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ii. Ocean Sciences and Climate Change

Climate change: Asst. Prof. Dr. Pantip Piyatadsananon

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Ocean Sciences: Dr. Sirilak Chumkiew

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Carbon footprint: Dr. Vorasiri de Cadenet

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iii Renewable Energy :

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Rapee Utke (also ASEAN Lead for this WG).

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iv. Global Health and Sustainable Food Production :

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Siwat Thaiudom

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v. Ecological Economics/Bioeconomy :

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ASEA-UNINET OPPORTUNITIES

- A platform for member universities to engage in cross-continent, high-impact research collaboration.
- **Ernst Mach Grant** – ASEA-UNINET: Scholarships for PhD, postdoctoral, and music studies in Austria for applicants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.
- **Short-term Research Grant:** Supports postdocs (≤ 45) from ASEAN countries for short research stays at Austrian ASEA-UNINET universities.
- **Follow-up Grant (EZA):** Offers 1–3 month research/teaching stays in Austria for former OeAD scholarship holders (≤ 45) from developing countries.
- **Project Funding:** Funds 1–2 year bilateral/multilateral projects in all fields between Austrian and ASEAN/Pakistan universities (mobility 1 week–3 months).

More info at <https://asea-uninet.org/>

