



WACE-ISO@SUT

Advancing Cooperative & Work-Integrated Education
International Satellite Office at Suranaree University of Technology

Newsletter June 2012

Highlight Activities of WACE-ISO@SUT

The World Association for Cooperative Education-International Satellite Office at Suranaree University of Technology (WACE-ISO@SUT) has been established since February 12th, 2012 after MOU signing between a group from SUT led by Professor Wichit Srisa-an and Dr. Paul Stonely, WACE CEO, at International Colloquium for WACE Global Partners, Nyenrode Business Universiteit, The Netherlands. The office aims to increase WACE's visibility by promoting WACE and helping achieve its missions in Asia and the Pacific region. Therefore, to ensure the effective operation of the ISO, the 10-member Regional Advisory Board was appointed in May 2012 to help guide and support the overall operation of WACE-ISO@SUT.



Following the Regional Advisory Board appointment, a series of milestone events were held on three consecutive days in June 2012. On June 5th, the first regional advisory board meeting was convened. Apart from the discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the board, the meeting also addressed the importance of the overall mission of the WACE-ISO@SUT stated in the MOU that needs to be accomplished as well as laying out the plan to achieve the Year One Opportunity Targets, including soliciting new global partners, offering a training program, and initiating other revenue-generating events in the region. In the meeting, the international cooperative education program was also discussed to explore opportunities for future expansion among ASEAN countries and beyond.

The next event was the official introduction of the WACE-ISO@SUT to the participants at the 4th Thai Cooperative Education Day on June 6th. Dr. Paul Stonely joined the opening of the WACE-ISO@SUT booth with Professor Wichit Srisa-an and SUT President, Professor Prasart Suebka. The booth, which was visited by more than 1,500 people that day, provided the information on the background of ISO@SUT, the Regional Advisory Board members, the Board's roles and responsibilities, and the ISO missions within Asia and the Pacific region.



Last in the series was the concrete and impactful WACE-ISO@SUT Advisory Forum on June, 7th where 30 participants from all concerned parties took part in vigorous discussion pinpointing the development of international cooperative education as the flagship agenda.

The forum started with the presentation on the needs for Thailand's and ASEAN's human resource development through the promotion of the international cooperative education by Professor Prasart Suebka, SUT President. This was followed by Dr. Paul Stonely's presentation on the roles of WACE and WACE-ISO@SUT in supporting and promoting international cooperative education in the global and ASEAN contexts. Both the presentations emphasized the benefits of WACE extension into the region which would provide the right support for its members as well as encouraged learning and sharing of best practice in developing and promoting international cooperative education in the region.



The next session was a panel discussion on the promotion of sustainable international cooperative education partnership by a set of respectable panelists representing the four concerned parties in international cooperative education, i.e. the government, the educational institution, the industry, and the international education organization. The discussion highlighted the roles of the government in encouraging cooperative education, the needs for embracing the diversity and adaptation brought in by the formation of ASEAN community, and the advancement of international cooperative education.



This half-a-day event ended with the thought-provoking brainstorming session on "strengthening international cooperative education and its sustainability" where practical suggestions ideal for the success of both domestic and international cooperative education programs were shared and taken into consideration for later implementation.

In summary, the forum provided the opportunity for learning and experience sharing among all parties concerned in international cooperative education. Thus, the event is a success as the partnership between those who share the same goal of promoting a sustainable international cooperative education has been strengthened to a remarkable level.