

MASTER AND Ph.D CURRICULUM MODELS OF ASEAN STUDIES OF THE ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA ^{1/}

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. The ASEAN University Network (AUN) decided to implement the ASEAN Studies Programme (ASP) as its prioritized activity following its establishment in November 1995. The University of Malaya (UM), being one of the first 17 Member Universities of the AUN volunteered to host the ASP on-behalf of the AUN. To further enhanced ASEAN awareness in higher education, the 22nd Meeting of the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT), held on 1-2 November 2007 in Pattaya, Thailand, endorsed a proposal by the AEI-UM to implement an International Ph.D Programme in ASEAN Studies (IPPAS), which is tentatively planned to start at the end of 2009.
2. This paper aims to explain briefly on the conduct of the International Master in ASEAN Studies (IMAS) by the AEI-UM, as well as the progress of preparation for the implementation of the ASEAN Studies Programme at doctoral level.

II. THE ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA (AEI-UM)

3. The Asia-Europe Institute of the University of Malaya (AEI-UM) was established in 1997. It is the realization of Malaysia's commitment to the Inaugural Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Summit in Bangkok in March 1996 on promoting and enhancing linkages in higher education between Asia and Europe. It has been designed to support the Socio-Cultural-Intellectual Pillar of the ASEM process. The AEI-UM was established in 1997 by the Government of Malaysia as the Asia-Europe Centre (AEC), and later, on 2 January 2000, was transformed into a full-pledged academic institution under the UM, and given its current name. The AEI envisions itself "*To be a centre of excellence in learning, research and international reference on Asia and Europe*" through a mission "*to spearhead quality academic and research work through smart partnerships between Asia and Europe*".
4. In consonance with the aspiration of ASEM, the AEI-UM has successfully established itself as one of Southeast Asia's leading institutions for social sciences postgraduate research and teaching. It has managed to foster and sustain the exchange of students and scholars between Asia and Europe that has led to the development of a better understanding of cultures, histories, politics, institutions, economics, business, and legal practices of both regions. Obligatorily, it has realized Malaysia's commitment to internationalizing higher education and advancing the idea of it being an 'educational infrastructure and knowledge network for the two regions for the twenty-first century'.
5. Currently, the AEI-UM is offering four one-year International Masters degree programmes, namely: International Masters in ASEAN Studies (IMAS), International

Masters in Regional Integration (IMRI); International Masters in Information Management

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(IMIM); and International Masters in Small and Medium Enterprises (IMSMEs). The IMAS programme is, essentially, an ASEAN regional cooperation in higher education under the ASEAN University Network (AUN) mechanism, which the AEI-UM is hosting on behalf of the AUN.

6. In addition to the Masters degree programmes, the AEI-UM has also started its doctoral degree programme on social sciences and humanities, which can be taken either on a full-time or part-time basis. Presently, there are already candidates pursuing their doctoral degree at the Institute, and an appreciable number of new applicants have been screened and accepted for the programme.

III. COOPERATION IN HIGHER EDUCATION IN ASEAN

The Backdrop

7. ASEAN has committed itself to build an ASEAN Community by 2015 on three closely inter-related pillars, namely the ASEAN Security Community (ASC), the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) and the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC). Basically, the first pillar is about *Peace*, the second is about *Prosperity*, while the third is about *People*; and, essentially, these three elements of Peace, Prosperity and People are at the core of a strong ASEAN Community. If the ASEAN Security Community and the ASEAN Economic Community are means through which ASEAN would secure a brighter future for its younger generation, the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community, with its focus on people, is about grooming them to inherit this future.
8. The priorities of the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC) address a range of issues, including health, labour, the environment, social welfare, gender, culture and education. ASEAN education policy framework is guided by the declarations of the 4th ASEAN Summit, held on 27-28 January 1992 in Singapore, and the 9th ASEAN Summit, held on 6-7 October 2003 in Bali, Indonesia. The 4th ASEAN Summit emphasized the need to hasten the development of a regional identity and solidarity, and promote human resource development by considering ways to further strengthen the existing network of the leading universities and institutions of higher learning in the ASEAN region. It also declared that ASEAN Member Countries shall continue to enhance awareness of ASEAN among the people in the region through expansion of ASEAN studies as part of Southeast Asian Studies in the school and university curricula and the introduction of ASEAN student exchange programmes at the secondary and tertiary levels of education.
9. These have been further reinforced by the Declaration of ASEAN Concord II, or the Bali Concord II, for the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community by the 9th ASEAN Summit. The part of the Declaration on this, among others, states that: “*ASEAN shall ensure that its work force shall be prepared for, and benefit from, economic integration by investing more resources for basic and higher education, training, science and*

technology development, job creation, and social protection. The development and enhancement of human resources is a key strategy for employment generation, alleviating poverty and socio-economic disparities, and ensuring economic growth with equity. ASEAN shall continue existing efforts to promote regional mobility and mutual recognition of professional credentials, talents, and skills development.” and “The (ASEAN Socio-Cultural) Community shall nurture talent and promote interaction among ASEAN scholars, writers, artist and media practitioners to help preserve and promote ASEAN’s diverse cultural heritage while fostering regional identity as well as cultivating people’s awareness of ASEAN.”

The ASEAN University Network (AUN) Process

10. The above ASEAN Summits’ declarations charted the policy direction for regional cooperation in education. For higher education, ASEAN established the ASEAN University Network (AUN) Programme in November 1995 to spearhead regional cooperation activities in higher education among ASEAN Member Countries. Presently, the AUN has 21 participating or member universities which are respective prime institutions of higher learning of ASEAN Member Countries.
11. The *general objective* of the AUN is to strengthen the existing network of cooperation among universities in ASEAN by promoting collaborative study and research programmes on the priority areas identified by ASEAN; while the *specific objectives* are to promote cooperation and solidarity among professionals, academicians, scientists and scholars in the region; to develop academic and professional human resources in the region; and to promote information dissemination through an electronic network of libraries and information exchange among members of the academic community, policy makers, students, and other relevant users.
12. The internationalization of ASEAN higher education has also gone beyond cooperation among ASEAN Member Countries. Cooperation programmes with some of ASEAN Dialogue Partners have been established. Through the AUN, ASEAN is implementing cooperation programmes in higher education with China, the European Union (EU), Japan and the Republic of Korea (RoK); while initiating a similar programme with India. Under the ASEAN Plus-Three cooperation framework collectively with China, Japan and RoK, ASEAN is initiating the Promotion of East Asian Studies in the East Asia Region and the formation of a Network of East Asian Studies (NEAS), and the 23rd Meeting of the AUN Board of Trustees had decided that the AUN Secretariat would serve as the NEAS Secretariat.

IV. THE ASEAN STUDIES PROGRAMME

- a) International Master in ASEAN Studies (IMAS)

Historical Background

13. The ASEAN Studies Programme, which is being formally hosted as a postgraduate

programme by the AEI-UM, was the first prioritized activity of the AUN from the very first year of its establishment since November 1995. Historically, ASEAN Studies were first introduced by the University of Malaya as an undergraduate course at its Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences (FASS), as part of the ASEAN University Network (AUN) process. This programme, then known as “ASEAN Studies Programme (ASP)”, started in October 2000 and was hosted by the Department of Southeast Asian Studies, FASS, and the ASP courses were also offered to other UM’s undergraduate students as electives. There were 3 core courses offered, each with 3 credit hours, namely: (i) ASEAN Identity and Development; (ii) ASEAN: Organisation and Structure; and (iii) ASEAN Studies Lecture Series.

14. Students who participated in this programme came from several universities in the ASEAN region. Participating universities included Burapha University, National University of Vietnam - Ho Chi Minh City; University of Distance Education, Yangon; De la Salle University, Manila; and Hiroshima University, Japan. The AEI-UM, which was already established at the time, contributed to this programme by sending some of its European visiting professors to lecture on selected topics.
15. In 1997, the AUN held a workshop in Bangkok at which scholars from ASEAN Member Countries agreed that AUN’s ASEAN Studies Programme should be developed and promoted at the postgraduate level. Pursuant to this, the AUN expert had completed an ASEAN Sourcebook and conducted a survey on related ASEAN Studies Programme offered by AUN Member Universities, which became an input for a workshop held in Myanmar in 1999. That particular Workshop agreed that an AUN’s Master of Art (MA) in ASEAN Studies Programme should comprise a set of 6 common core courses, while modules be opened for individual preferences. Later in 2001, the AUN had the recommended core courses syllabi developed and posted on the website, followed by several revisions to make it more practical and effective for use.
16. In its effort to push forward the ASEAN Studies Programme, the AUN Board of Trustees (AUN-BOT) organized a Seminar-cum-Workshop in Malaysia on 9-10 October 2002, hosted by the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) of the University of Malaya, to standardize the Programme. The aim of the Seminar-cum-Workshop was to immediately establish the ASEAN Studies Programme based on the already developed 6 core course syllabi. It was participated by head administrators of related programmes on ASEAN studies from AUN Member Universities that was offering the said programme, as well as experts who developed the core course syllabi and representatives from the ASEAN Secretariat who coordinated AUN activities. Based on the outputs and recommendation of the Seminar-Workshop, the AUN-BOT consequently agreed that the AUN’s postgraduate (MA) on ASEAN Studies Programme be wholly offered by one of the AUN Member Universities, and the University of Malaya was chosen for this purpose. It was also agreed that the lecturers for the Programme could be from the host university and could also be invited from AUN Member Universities. Students might also take some of the courses in AUN Member Universities. Eventually, the Asia-Europe Institute (AEI) of the University of Malaya was given the honour to host the ASEAN Studies Programme at the postgraduate level in October 2006.

Description

17. The Programme offers International Masters degree in ASEAN Studies (IMAS), which provides an advanced level of understanding of the political, economic, social and cultural forces which shape ASEAN as well as the attendant policy process in a range of issue areas. It does so through a consideration of four aspects of ASEAN:

- To offer an analysis of the historical, social and cultural forces that have shaped Southeast Asia as a macro-region in the world order;
- To consider the contested nature of theoretical concepts – how the basic categories are understood in partially different ways in competing theoretical approaches to regionalism and regionalization, and how some concepts belong more to some theories than to others;
- To assess the institutional arrangements, changing policy agenda and governance issues of ASEAN in the contemporary period; and
- To compare the key characteristics of ASEAN with analogous developments in regional associations elsewhere in the world.

Aims and Objectives

18. The course aims to critically assess the significance of ASEAN as a regional project in terms of theoretical, conceptual and empirical debates from a range of social science disciplines. On completion of this programme, students should have:

- Arrive at an informed understanding of the need for concepts in understanding ASEAN and explored these concepts in some detail;
- Acquired knowledge of the context, institutional framework, issue agenda and governance mechanisms of ASEAN and interpreted several major issues associated with its contemporary development in some detail;
- Compared and evaluated ASEAN in the context of other regional and global developments; and
- Developed key analytical, interpretative, written and oral presentational, and practitioner skills.

Structure

19. The IMAS is being offered over a one-year period (September – August). It requires students to take a total of 13 academic courses, an internship and write a project paper. The 13 courses are covered over two 2.5-month semesters of total coursework which include 6 Programme Core Courses, 4 AEI Core Courses, 2 Cross-Programme Courses, and 1 Elective Course (see **Attachment 1**). The first semester is from the second week of September to middle of December, and the second semester is from end of the following January to the middle of April.
20. As partial fulfillment for the Masters degree, the students have also to undergo a one-to two-month internship programme beginning in the middle of May, as well as to submit a Project Paper of not less than 25,000 words by the end of October. For the internship, preferably, the students are required to undergo the programme at an institution in a country outside of their own. Over the past couple of academic sessions, most of the students taking the IMAS Programme were placed on a one-month internship at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.
21. The courses and the internship carries 3 credit units each, while the Project Paper carries 6 credit units, giving a total of 48 credit units. The courses are conducted on a 2-week modular basis each, i.e. the visiting professor come, in-turn, on a 2-week period each to lecture on the courses assigned to them.

Target Students and Lecturers

22. True to its international concept, students taking the IMAS programme come from the ASEAN countries as well as countries outside the region, and the Programme receives teaching support of international visiting professors, including from ASEAN Member Countries, as well as academicians from within the University of Malaya and other local universities in Malaysia.
23. This programme is designed for students for whom a Masters degree will be a prelude to careers in fields related to business, international, regional, government and non-governmental organizations, or any career where advanced knowledge of ASEAN, regional integration and globalization coupled with an advanced capacity to communicate effectively will be an advantage. It will appeal particularly to those with an interest in historical, cultural, political and economic aspects of regional integration.

Entry Requirements

24. The basic entry requirements for the programme are:
 - Applicants should have a good first degree or an equivalent qualification in a relevant discipline from an approved university (CGPA of 3.0 and above), or
 - Posses a professional qualification from a regional professional body; or
 - Other qualifications approved by the University of Malaya Senate from time to time.

25. For international candidates whose degree is from a university where the medium of instruction is not English, a minimum score in one of the standard language tests is required:

- TOEFL test (paper-based) – 550 or more; or
- TOEFL test (computer-based) – 230 or more; or
- IELTS test – score of Band 6 or more.

Review of the IMAS Curriculum

26. In line with the regulation of the host institution, University of Malaya, and through the AEI-UM, the AUN-BOT would review the ASEAN Studies Programme every 3 to 5 years through evaluating the progress report that will be presented by the AEI-UM at every future meetings of the AUN-BOT. This will allow the AUN-BOT to monitor and evaluate, as well as ensure that the contents of the courses offered to the students under the Programme are truly in-keeping abreast with the developments in ASEAN, beneficial and attractive and, most importantly, serve the objective of the 4th ASEAN Summit's declaration to promote awareness of ASEAN. In this regard, the AEI-UM, in consultation with the other member universities of the AUN, either through the AUN process or bilaterally, will undertake efforts to update the syllabus and the course contents, as and when necessary.

b) International Ph.D Programme in ASEAN Studies (IPPAS)

27. The next step by the AUN, through the AEI-UM, is to further the ongoing IMAS programme into doctoral level. The AEI-UM is expected to start an International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies under the AUN mechanism, tentatively, by September 2009. The 22nd Meeting of the AUN-BOT held in Pattaya, Thailand on 1-2 November 2007 has endorsed the proposal towards this end by the AEI-UM. Pursuant to this, the proposal has been further detailed out, in terms of its rationale, aims, research areas, programme and duration of study, supervision, financing, and admission requirements of the programme, by a meeting hosted by the AEI-UM among experts from some of the AUN member universities on 10-11 April 2008 in Kuala Lumpur. The detailed proposal had been approved by the 23rd Meeting of AUN-BOT held on 19-20 June 2008 in Hanoi.

The Conceptual Framework of IPPAS

28. This programme is designed for students who have successfully completed any one of the International Masters programmes at AEI or any fields that are relevant at other national or international institutions, including the AUN Member Universities. It is offered to any candidate who has fulfilled the admission requirements as stipulated by the UM, and/or other terms and conditions as agreed to by the ASEAN University

Network Board of Trustees of the (AUN-BOT).

Aims of the Programme

29. The aims of the Ph.D Programme are:

- i. to strengthen the students' research abilities within the areas of ASEAN studies and ultimately provide them with skills and ideas towards a better understanding of the region;
- ii. to assist and enable students to achieve excellence in multidisciplinary research, postgraduate education and training to meet the growing demands of the worlds of academia, economics, politics, science and technology and the arts;
- iii. to provide students with theories, methodologies, practice and applications in order to keep pace with current developments in research and have the opportunities to work in different ASEAN settings; and
- iv. to foster a stronger cooperation among universities in the region through networking, exchanges of expertise, joint researches, joint supervision, and the sharing of experiences and curricula.

Rationale and Justification

30. The IPPAS is in tandem with the rapid development of a globalised world and the culture of seeking knowledge globally. The programme aims to provide a fulfilling and stimulating educational experience with a comprehensive range of research areas in social sciences and humanities in this part of the world that are rigorous, challenging, and innovative. Depth of knowledge is assured through the exploration of interdisciplinary approaches and exchange of ideas and development of research, while breadth is undertaken through the exploration of other kinds of knowledge in other related areas, which is also catered for.
31. The IPPAS is more than just an academic pursuit. It is designed to ensure the fields of study remain relevant to the needs of today and to ensure that candidates in pursuit of their Ph.D are able to foresee the changes of societal and industry standards, trends and behavioral patterns; the very same qualities that make them brilliant and effective leaders. The proposed Ph.D programme is also a testimony on the efforts of regional leading universities, under the auspices of AUN, to strengthen the cooperation and exchanges in tertiary education.
32. ASEAN is continually in need of new knowledge and data to formulate future strategies and plans of action for cooperation in the various political and security, economic, and socio-cultural sectors. Compared to the existing IMAS programme which AEI is hosting for the AUN, the IPPAS, by the higher level of research works involved, will be better structured to serve the above-mentioned purpose. In-depth researches conducted by students under the IPPAS can provide more and up-to-date information on the various areas of ASEAN's sectoral cooperation, including issues

facing these areas, in order to plan and implement future cooperative activities meaningfully. Therefore, it is justifiable for AUN to take its current IMAS programme one step further into the doctoral level. In short, the IPPAS will enhance a better and provide new knowledge about ASEAN that can serve policy guidelines and recommendations for ASEAN governments to pursue as well.

33. This International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies programme, when implemented, will contribute a great deal to ASEAN regional cooperation in higher education, in particular, and to ASEAN cooperation, in general. Implementing the programme under the AUN mechanism will certainly further enhance the existing collaboration among the AUN Member Universities. The AUN is promoting collaborative research among its Member Universities. The Ph.D researches and studies that will be implemented can help beef up the activities under this collaborative effort. The researches to be conducted by IPPAS students could be subsumed under this "Collaborative Research" programme, or could be indirectly regarded as an activity for the programme. Being a formal research with good administration and management/supervision, the research works under the IPPAS would certainly provide credible inputs for the AUN's Collaborative Network programme.
34. As with the case of the IMAS programme, the IPPAS also aims to attract non-ASEAN students who intend to pursue any research from an ASEAN perspective of the region and indirectly offer an opportunity to have a cross-cultural experience. The programme will enable graduates to pursue careers in their respective national governments or non-governmental organisations, research, academia, politics, and foreign affairs, which are involved in dealing with matters of ASEAN regional integration, particularly those in the political and security, economic and socio-cultural sectors.
35. While the AEI-UM will be the implementer of this proposed International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies, this programme envisages a joint effort and close collaboration between the Institute and other relevant faculties within the University of Malaya and, most importantly, with other AUN Member Universities as well as universities and institutions of higher learning in other countries and regions outside ASEAN which have expert resources in ASEAN or Southeast Asian studies. In a way, either directly or indirectly, this will also enhance internationalization of higher education.
36. On the more general level, undoubtedly, this doctoral programme will contribute towards increasing the available pool of human resource in the area of social sciences and humanities, particularly in relation to the ASEAN region. While ASEAN, at this moment, may not be short of experts or qualified people in the field of ASEAN studies, it certainly needs more researches and studies to be done in the various socio-cultural sectors in order to provide sufficient and concrete basis to formulate strategies and directions for regional cooperation in these sectors in the future. For instance, in the education sector itself ASEAN still needs much contribution from the region's educational institutions to chart a concrete strategy and direction for future regional cooperation.

Description of the IPPAS

37. The IPPAS shall focus on the political, economic, cultural and social sciences forces

which shape the ASEAN region. It aims to develop excellent competencies in contemporary development of ASEAN politics, economies, cultures and societies and to provide comparisons between the ASEAN region and other macro-regions in the world order, especially Europe and East Asia.

Modality/Programme of Study

38. The modality of study shall be by **Coursework and Research** which will be conducted by a combination of lectures and research, or by **Research** alone which will be conducted by full-time research, both leading to a thesis/dissertation. These two options are regarded as appropriate for a joint-programme mode given the fact that the prevailing rules and procedures of AUN Member Universities require either one or both mode of study. The second option applies only to candidates who already possess a good Masters degree in ASEAN Studies or Southeast Asian Studies and with a well-based knowledge in these areas.
39. For a coursework-research-based IPPAS, except where prior written approval has been obtained, the student shall conduct the research leading to a dissertation only after s/he has successfully completed all the prescribed lectures in the curriculum of the programme of study. As this will be a three (3)-year Ph.D programme, the programme components may be allocated in the manner that a student shall do the coursework in the first year, fieldwork and data-gathering in the second year, and writing of dissertation in the third year.

Duration of Study

40. The duration of the study shall be three (3) years. Expecting a smooth preparatory stage, the IPPAS is intended to begin in September 2009, at the earliest.
41. The philosophy of the IPPAS is concerned with developing a pool of experts and high quality researches. AEI aims to promote culture of research and seeking knowledge among ASEAN population. Within the scope of a three-year doctoral programme, opportunities will be taken to prepare students to operate at levels in government agencies and other organizations where innovation and creative decision-making are required so as to hold research and development roles.

Degree Conferment

42. Primarily, the Ph.D degree shall be conferred by the UM. However, in order that the IPPAS will truly be an initiative under the AUN, where appropriate, it can also be offered as a joint degree between UM and another interested AUN Member University, or one from where the student is registered. This mechanism or arrangement will provide a stake to all AUN Member Universities involved in this doctoral programme.

Curricular Framework of the Coursework

43. The IPPAS shall prepare a student to do theoretical and empirical research, which would then be the basis for analytically-informed policy and action. For the coursework-research-based IPPAS, the decision on the number of credit units shall take into consideration each AUN Member University's rule on the number of academic units a student must complete in order to graduate with a Ph.D degree. Based on the prevailing rules of the majority of AUN Member Universities, the students will be required to complete the Ph.D degree with a minimum of 60 credit units (100%), including 24 (40%) credit units of coursework and 36 (60%) credit units of research and dissertation, within a period of three (3) years.

Note: *The exact types and number of courses, as well as the credit units required, in the programme shall be determined at a later stage by a meeting or meetings of a group of curriculum specialists/experts. These experts shall review course descriptions and syllabi, and subsequently to identify possible core courses, specialization courses, and so on. Core courses which are not available may need to be instituted. These new courses will give the programme the character and make the programme unique.*

i. Foundation Courses (for Non-graduates of Masters in ASEAN Studies and other related programmes)

44. These are courses in ASEAN studies which are pre-requisites for those students who do not possess a Masters equivalent, or those with Masters degrees not related to ASEAN Studies. The foundation courses will provide the students with the foundation perspectives (Masters level courses, e.g. History, Society and Culture in Southeast Asia or equivalent; Regionalization and Regionalism: Theory and Practice or equivalent).

ii. Core Courses (tentatively 9 credit units)

45. The core courses are required and common to all students. These courses, including one on research methodology, are meant to provide the students with the foundational/fundamental concepts and process in ASEAN studies and will ensure that they will have the minimum expected knowledge upon graduation. A set of core courses may be established from existing related courses which are being offered by AUN Member Universities.

iii. Specialization Courses (tentatively 6 credit units)

46. Initially, the programme shall cover no more than four major areas of study. These courses will provide areas of expertise and make the graduates "area specialists" in ASEAN studies. The supervisor(s) shall have authority to recommend the student to take courses that will support the research to be conducted.

iv. Cognates/Cross-programme courses (tentatively 9 credit units)

47. The cognates are related courses outside of Ph.D in ASEAN Studies at the Ph.D level that can further enhance the chosen area of specialization of the student from the perspectives of other disciplines. The required credit units must be taken from one area of study. However, the credit units for the cognates shall be sufficient enough so as not to off-set the objective to develop a Ph.D programme that will focus on research which is expected to benefit not only the students, but also the ASEAN as a whole. Cognates and specialization courses may be combined, and may be taken outside of UM.

Note: A student can register from any AUN Member University for the Ph.D programme. However, the core courses will be taught at UM. Other courses can be taken from UM or any AUN Member University. Where appropriate, a student may also take additional courses at the host university during the period of data collection and/or writing of dissertation.

Comprehensive Examination (pass/fail; required but no credit unit)

48. Students will be required to sit for a comprehensive examination on the academic courses after completing all the required academic subjects and before the start of the dissertation.

Research Work

49. Tentatively, the research for the IPPAS shall be undertaken in the following areas of Social Sciences and Humanities, and also in Area Studies:

ASEAN Studies*	Information Management	
Anthropology	Information Science and Technology	
Business Management	International Relations	
Communication and New Media Studies	Languages and Linguistics	
Cultural Studies in Asia	Law	
Development Studies	Literature and Culture	
Economics	Poverty and Equality	
Education	Psychology	
Entrepreneurship	Small and Medium Enterprises	
Environment	Social Development	
Gender and Women's Studies	Sociology	
History	Southeast Asian Studies**	

Note: * ASEAN Studies covers various areas pertaining to ASEAN as an institution and a process.

** Southeast Asian Studies covers broader aspect of Southeast Asia as a region.

50. For purpose of quality assurance of the IPPAS, a student shall be required to present a research proposal for approval by a panel before starting his/her research. The membership of the panel shall depend on the proposed research topic/area, and this shall also include thesis advisers/supervisors. This can just be in the forms of personal discussions or a couple of seminars. The discussions or seminars are to ensure that the student is ready to apply theories and correct methodology on his/her

field/area of research.

51. Data gathering may be done in the student's own country or in any other ASEAN country or countries, or in a non-ASEAN Member Country(ies). There shall be a compulsory meeting between the student and both supervisors to draw up a framework of data analysis to prevent future differences in opinion between supervisors, which is particularly important in research projects of an interdisciplinary nature.
52. Before writing his/her dissertation, there shall be regular personal meetings of the student and both supervisors throughout the course of research to discuss the progress of research in order to guide the student in data gathering and analysis and interpretation of the results. And, before defending his/her dissertation, there shall be a couple of seminars by the student to the same panel mentioned in paragraph 50.

Seminars (pass/fail; required but no credit unit)

53. These are the seminars mentioned in paragraphs 49 and 51.

Dissertation (36 credit units - equivalent to 2 years' work).

54. As a doctoral programme, the IPPAS shall provide direct instruction in research methodology and will require the completion of a substantial thesis or dissertation written in English. Students will have to demonstrate advanced research skills consistent with the doctoral level study and produce high-quality original research that contributes to the exploration of knowledge base in a way that can influence decision making and policy formulation within an educational and community (ASEAN) context.
55. The total required 36 credit units for two (2) years will ensure enough time to develop and improve the students' research skills in order to be well-trained and build self-confidence to work in research field or as an academe. Writing of dissertation will be done at the UM or at the student's parent-university. The dissertation shall be defended before a panel comprising supervisors and external examiners. External examiners can be either from ASEAN or from outside of ASEAN. The defense session may or may not be opened to public.

Manuscript

56. A manuscript shall have to be made ready for submission to an ISI-listed journal, written according to "Instructions to Authors" of such journal.

Appointment of **Supervisors and Teaching Staff**

Supervision

57. There shall be a combined supervision along the following terms and conditions:

- i) The First Supervisor shall come from University of Malaya (if UM does not have the required expertise, the First Supervisor shall be sourced from other AUN Member Universities); while the Second Supervisor may come from any AUN Member University who has expressed a willingness to participate;
- ii) UM shall decide on an additional supervisor, if so deemed necessary, in consultation with the student based on the area of research interest; and
- iii) To facilitate identifying supervisors, the candidate shall be required to attach a tentative concept paper on the proposed research to the application letter/form.

Teaching Staff

58. A provisional list of experts (lecturers/supervisors) and corresponding fields of specializations from all AUN Member Universities shall be prepared and appended to the final IPPAS document. Basically, this list shall carry the name; disciplinary background (including highest degree and the university from which the degree was obtained); and areas of specialization and/or areas of interest. The list may be accompanied by additional information on: (i) formal commitment from interested members regarding their willingness to participate; (ii) names of members of staff who are willing to teach and those who are willing to supervise; (iii) teaching areas and research areas for supervision; and (iv) indication of number of Ph.D candidates that a professor is willing to supervise in a year.

59. Where appropriate and possible, the AEI shall invite non-UM teaching staff and/or supervisors to stay for longer periods at the AEI in order to allow for more continuity and a closer academic relationship between students and instructors.

Management of the Ph.D Programme

60. As the main implementer of the Ph.D Programme, the UM shall manage the IPPAS in accordance with its constitution. Nevertheless, since the Programme will be implemented as an ASEAN regional cooperation in education under the AUN mechanism or process, the AUN-BOT may want to set up a "Programme Council". This Council shall serve as an advisory board to assist the AEI-UM on policy matters related to academic and research works to be conducted, on financial matters which are external to UM, and on student welfare. The Council may comprise a representative each from all or only some AUN Member Universities. (Note: *This matter shall also be discussed in detailed at the next stage of this Preparatory Phase*).

Admission Requirements

Academic Qualifications

61. As the Ph.D is the highest degree conferred by a university, all applicants for admission to the Ph.D programme must first have earned a credible university degree equivalent to a good Masters degree, either in Malaysia or elsewhere. A candidate applying for the IPPAS should possess a Masters Degree in ASEAN Studies or in a relevant area.
62. A well-prepared student who possesses a recognized Masters degree normally should be able to complete the Ph.D course within three (3) years; while a well-prepared student without a Masters degree should be able to do so within five (5) years. In the latter case, a student holding only a Bachelor Degree shall first be required to first pursue a one-year Masters Degree programme prior to entering into the IPPAS. This may be in the form of a matriculation or refresher programme attached to the Ph.D programme, and not belonging to a specific Masters degree programme even though the courses taken may be from a particular Masters programme package.

Language Requirements

Malay Language (Bahasa Malaysia)

63. Malaysian applicants must have obtained at least a pass in Bahasa Malaysia at Malaysian Certificate of Education level or equivalent and are proficient in English. [A non-Malaysian citizen may be required to attend a satisfactory level of Bahasa Malaysia course that is conducted by the UM before being conferred the Degree].

English Language

64. International students are required to have at least IELTS Band 6 or TOEFL 550 if their first degree is from a university where English is not the medium of instruction, or pass an English proficiency test approved by the university involved.

Other Requirements

65. Applicants for the IPPAS shall be required to submit letters of recommendation from at least two (2) referees; a conceptual research proposal which include purpose, rationale of study, theoretical approaches, methodology, hypothesis and assumptions, analytical model, and length and specific area of research plan; *curriculum vitae* (CV) plus experiences; and academic credentials or achievements (honour, award, etc.).

V. CONCLUDING REMARKS

66. In this era of globalization, the universities are facing ever greater challenges in trying to keep the standard and quality of higher education in abreast with the increasing demands for qualified human resources. Therefore, universities and institutions of higher learning in the ASEAN region cannot afford to move ahead individually on their own. They need to share expertise and experiences, as well as merge their strengths and resources to face these ever-growing challenges and demands. This is exactly

what the AEI-UM is attempting to promote through the IMAS and IPPAS. It needs no mentioning that all prime universities in ASEAN Member Countries, including the AUN member universities, are already conducting doctoral programmes in various fields of social sciences and humanities. While they are progressing well individually in their respective areas of excellence, the universities should, at the same time, undertake joint approaches in order to grow and excel together. As with the case of the IMAS Programme, it is envisaged that the International Ph.D in ASEAN Studies will receive similar teaching support and cooperation of academicians from within the University of Malaya and other local universities in Malaysia, as well as from universities in ASEAN and countries in other regions.

67. Indeed, ASEAN should continue to pursue its earnest effort to sustain the noble venture in academic relations between its various institutions of higher learning, especially the AUN member universities, and those in other regions of the world. The momentum of collaboration in topics of mutual interest, and the awareness of students in ASEAN countries have regarding ASEAN cooperation in higher education among them and between them and other countries in other regions of the world, should be kept on the increase in the course of time. Needless to say, the AEI-UM has a role to play in all these endeavours to enhance internationalization of education, regionally and globally.

5 February 2009
Asia-Europe Institute
University of Malaya

Attachment 1

**THE COURSES OFFERED FOR
THE INTERNATIONAL MASTERS IN ASEAN STUDIES (IMAS)
ASIA-EUROPE INSTITUTE, UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA**

TYPE	NO	CODE	TOPIC	CREDIT UNIT	SEMESTER
AEI Core Courses	1.	QXGX 6101	Political Economy of Asia-Europe Relations	3	2
	2.	QXGX 6102	Globalisation and Regional Integration	3	2
	3.	QXGX 6103	Research Methods and Data Analysis for Social Sciences	3	1
	4.	QXGX 1605	Advanced Studies in Malaysian Politics, Government Economics	3	1
	5.	QXGD 6101	History, Society and Culture in Southeast Asia	3	1
Programme Core Courses	6.	QXGD 6102	Regionalisation and Regionalism: Theory and Practice	3	2
	7.	QXGD 6104	Legal Institutional and Governance Framework	3	1
	8.	QXGD 6105	Economic and Political Policy Agendas of ASEAN	3	2
	9.	QXGD 6107	Politics and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region	3	2
	10.	QXGD 6108	Functional Cooperation in ASEAN	3	1
	11.	QXGB 6101	Globalisation and Economic Development	3	1
Cross-Programme Courses	12.	QXGB 6104	European Model of Regionalisation	3	1
	13.	QXGE 6101	Multiculturalism in Asia and Europe	3	2
UM Elective Course					
INTERNSHIP		QXGD 6170		3	From mid-May
PROJECT PAPER		QXGD 6180		6	After Internship
TOTAL CREDIT HOURS				48	