

The Asian International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme is SEAMEO RIHED's regional initiative to support the mobility of students and enhance cooperation in higher education among countries in Asia. To remain relevant, SEAMEO RIHED commits to participate in the achievement of these regional and global priorities that relate to our mandate and contribute to developing awareness, changing mindsets, and initiating collective action in collaboration with SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate and Affiliate Members and our partners. The Centre commits to contribute towards the achievement of SDGs that aligns with its mandate and focus, particularly SDG 4 on quality education, SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 17 on partnership for the goals. At the regional level, our work is closely aligned with Priority Area 6 on Harmonisation of Higher Education and Research of the SEAMEO Education Agenda 2015-2035.

AIMS programme aims to actively create student mobility programs for all SEAMEO RIHED member countries. The history of AIMS began with the Malaysia-Indonesia-Thailand Student Mobility Pilot Project (M-I-T) in 2009 as a collaboration between the governments of the three countries and SEAMEO RIHED. Following the success of the pilot project, it is now a wholly ASEAN-owned program. Several other Southeast Asian countries are now joining these three countries, and subsequently, as a whole (Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam, Philippines, Brunei, Japan, and Korea) are developing AIMS student mobility programs.

Connecting governments, universities, and students, the AIMS Programme provides a multilateral platform for academic exchange and collaboration to strengthen regional integration and community building. In keeping the spirit of the Asian region, AIMS Malaysia under the Ministry of Higher Education aiming to publish a journal entitled 'Internationalisation of Higher Education towards Future Talents' which covers topics related to student mobility, Internationalisation at HE's to the current situation where COVID-19 has turned global disruption. In pertinent to this, as a member of AIMS, PUTRA International Centre (i-PUTRA) on behalf of UPM has been appointed by AIMS Malaysia and the Ministry of Higher Education to lead this prestigious effort which will benefit HEI's through experience exchange. It is honored for UPM to be given the opportunity to run this fully-funded international project by the Ministry of Higher Education itself.

The journal will be a gathering of local and international submissions from AIMS country partners. This special issue of Gading Journal for Social Sciences features nine high-quality manuscripts that cover topics related to international students overcoming challenges, in creating a tolerant multicultural. There are three subtopics that have been included in this journal, such as Innovation in future learning and teaching methods, challenges in brand positioning of the future education, and mobility engagement for students for enhancement. This special issue is an outcome of the AIMS International Conference 2021 that was held in Dubai Expo 2020 on 17 December 2021 organised by Universiti Sains Malaysia in collaboration with AIMS Malaysia members university and regional partner from Asia.