

Penang Declaration 2010

We, Graduate Deans and practitioners in doctoral education of Malaysia and Thailand in view of building a *Southeast Asian Network of doctoral education*, in order to enhance Southeast Asian's capacity for solving regional and global problems and meeting human needs, declare our commitment to develop the role of doctoral education in our region in the era of globalization.

This declaration is a call to advance doctoral education in the region and to act upon the forms of doctoral education worldwide. It defines a framework for shaping doctoral education to meet the needs of the 21st century and beyond, and for creating the conditions to educate doctoral candidates as responsible world citizens.

We acknowledge that doctoral education is a resource for economic development among nations and that the current distribution of intellectual capital tends to magnify global inequality.

We believe that doctoral education should be a source for social cooperation and the sustainability of natural, human and institutional resources.

We are committed to understanding various forms of doctoral education needed to produce socially relevant knowledge, promote international cooperation, and bring to fruition diverse ways of knowledge creation.

Many factors raise the need for global understanding of doctoral education. These include:

- growing interest in doctoral education as a source of innovation and competitive advantage in the global economy
- expansion of doctoral education in developing nations
- international mobility of doctoral candidates
- internationalization of the labour market and global competition for doctoral scientists and researchers
- improving the quality of life by international research collaboration, focusing on global challenges such as water, health, food, energy and education.

In light of these trends, as experts of doctoral education we believe we can promote the improvement of doctoral education in Southeast Asia and beyond. We are committed to advancing doctoral education by:

- defining its aims and forms
- strengthening institutional structures
- establishing a regional quality framework
- building a database on profiles of higher education institutions
- fostering national, supra-and international collaboration
- seeking funding and endowment
- recognizing and rewarding the efforts of all involved
- ensuring state-of-the-art infrastructure.

In Penang, July 2010, doctoral education experts and practitioners from Malaysia and Thailand, provided the basis for building a Southeast Asian hub for doctoral education. This first workshop was a milestone for sharing information widely and promoting innovation in doctoral education. The future hub will create a network for:

Collaboration in

- research
- consultancy
- supervision
- staff/student mobility
- joint programmes

Sharing of

- resources
- expertise
- information
- effective practices

Initiating

- a student mobility framework
- an ASEAN quality framework
- international linkages with other networks

Sourcing of funds for

- endowment
- internship
- scholarship
- research grants
- post-doctoral positions

Increasing the scope of participation.

The strength of the hub will be developed accordingly.

This *Declaration* is the result of a comprehensive effort to assess doctoral education as a critical force in responding to and shaping trends in doctoral education in Southeast Asia.