



SEACOOP

FP7-ICT-215330 PROJECT

IDENTIFICATION OF STRATEGIC COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA IN ICT RESEARCH

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| Deliverable name | DI12 |
| Deliverable status | Final |
| Delivery date | March 2009 |
| Dissemination level | Restricted |
| Authors | Roger Torrenti (Sigma Orionis) Wilson Lau and Gaving Ang, I ² R (A*STAR) (with the contribution of all SEACOOP partners) |
| Contact | info@eurosoutheastasia-ict.org |



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INTRODUCTION

The present document is a deliverable of the SEACOOP project, supported by the Directorate General Information Society and Media of the European Commission through the “7th EU Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development”, or FP7 (see <http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7> for full details).

The objectives and achievements of the SEACOOP project, that has developed its activities over the period October 2007 - March 2009, are summarized below and presented in detail on the project web site: <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org>.

The SEACOOP project work plan was divided into work packages (WPs), each of them being subdivided into tasks. One of the project tasks, Task I.1 of WPI, led by I²R (A*STAR), was devoted to the identification of strategic cooperation opportunities between Europe and Southeast Asia in ICT research.

The present document is the final deliverable related to this task and constitutes an update, by the end of the project, of the D1.1.2 deliverable which had already been released in November 2008.

SEACOOP OBJECTIVES AND ACHIEVEMENTS



The SEACOOP FP7 project (<http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org>) has been selected at the first Call for proposals, related to the ICT (Information and Communication Technologies) theme of the European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Technological Development (FP7). It was one of the “support actions” in the portfolio of the International relations Unit of the European Commission's Directorate General Information Society and Media. It has been focused on S&T (Science and Technology) cooperation on ICT between Europe and Southeast Asia, and developed its activities over the period October 2007 - March 2009.

The main project objectives, building on the achievements reached by former support actions (namely the BASIC, ENGAGE, and GAPFILL FP6 projects) were to identify, promote, and support strategic cooperation opportunities of mutual interest, and to support bilateral and multilateral policy dialogues. The project also aimed at increasing awareness of such opportunities in Southeast Asia, at widely disseminating project perspectives and results in the European and Southeast Asian ICT communities and at developing synergies with other national and international programmes and initiatives similarly addressing cooperation on ICT research between the two regions.



Coordinated by the European organisation Sigma Orionis, who had previously coordinated the GAPFILL project, the SEACOOP partnership included, on the Southeast Asian side, the national Agencies managing ICT research in the 7 most advanced countries:

- The Advanced Science and Technology Institute (ASTI), Philippines
- The Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT), Indonesia
- The Institute for Infocomm Research (I²R / A*STAR), Singapore
- Mimos Berhad, Malaysia
- The National Council for Science and Technology Policy (NCSTP), Vietnam
- The National ICT Development Authority (NiDA), Cambodia
- The National Science and Technology Development Agency (NSTDA), Thailand

The nature of the SEACOOP partnership, added to the fact that the ASEAN Secretariat had accepted to bring its support to the project (officially endorsing it in July 2008), has allowed to ensure the largest participation of the Southeast Asian ICT community in project activities, and provided an ideal environment for the development of policy dialogues between the two regions.

On the European side, The SEACOOP project has been formally supported by major European Technology Platforms (Artemis, eMobility, EPOSS, ISI, NESSI, NEM), and by leading companies, universities, and research organisations already involved in Euro-Southeast Asia cooperation on ICT, which has ensured a high involvement of, and an important project impact on, the European ICT community.

AWARENESS WORKSHOPS IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Three awareness workshops have been organised in Southeast Asia in the framework of the SEACOOP project: in Hanoi, Vietnam (April 17, 2008), Phnom Penh, Cambodia (April 24, 2008), and Vientiane, Lao PDR (May 22, 2008).

These events, each of them attracting around 100 participants and being given quite a large visibility in the local media through press and TV reports, have allowed to:

- introduce the FP7 research funding programme, and explain how ICT organisations from the given country could be involved in joint EU-funded R&D projects with European organisations,
- develop contacts with local ICT organisations interested in cooperation opportunities under FP7, in order to better apprehend their profiles and their expectations, and answer any specific questions they had.



THE 2008 EURO-SOUTHEAST ASIA COOPERATION FORUM ON ICT RESEARCH

This Forum took place on October 6-7, 2008 at the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel in Brussels, under the aegis of the European Commission and of ASEAN, and with the support of the SEACOOP project. It was the first of its kind ever organised in Europe and attracted around 250 delegates, including over 100 representatives from leading Southeast Asian organisations in the ICT area.

Held only some weeks before the launch of important FP7 Calls for proposals in the ICT sector (ICT Call 4 and Infrastructures Call 5), this Forum particularly aimed at thoroughly discussing opportunities of strategic cooperation. This is why the event structure included a number of parallel thematic sessions allowing participants to discuss potential projects in each thematic area and why ample time was left during the two days to facilitate networking between participants.

During the closing plenary session, reports presented by the rapporteurs of each session indicated that a total of 30-35 well-advanced potential cooperation projects had been introduced and discussed, which should lead to a great number of proposals (with the participation of Southeast Asian organisations) to be presented at future FP7 Calls. It is also expected that other potential cooperation projects will be fine tuned in the next weeks and months by organisations from the two regions having participated in the event.



LIAISON WITH OTHER PROGRAMMES AND INITIATIVES

In order that the impact of the SEACOOP project can be the greatest and that project activities can be the most efficient, a close liaison aiming at exchanging information and finding possible synergies with national and international programmes and initiatives similarly addressing Euro-Southeast Asia cooperation on ICT research has been ensured all along the project.

Fruitful contacts have been developed in particular with the SEA-EU-NET project (see <http://www.sea-eu.net>) launched in January 2008 with the support of European Commission's DG Research since this project has objectives similar to the SEACOOP project ("priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies") but at a non-thematic level (SEACOOP focusing on the ICT Theme).

Close liaison has been also established with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), both at the Secretariat level and at the level of the Committee on Science and Technology (COST), and with other European programmes and initiatives, launched at the EU level or at the one of EU Member States.

OTHER DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION ACTIVITIES

The <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org> web site has been designed and put online in an early phase of the project. It is meant to be a true web portal devoted to cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia on ICT research and therefore not only provides detailed information on project objectives and activities, but also includes a substantial amount of background information and some functionalities that can be useful to the European and Southeast Asian ICT communities, such as a “Community area”.

The SEACOOP project has also contributed to many publications and external events in both regions, among which a strong participation in the European Commission’s ICT event of November 25-27, 2008 in Lyon, France: the SEACOOP project was responsible of an exhibition booth in the International area of the ICT 2008 exhibition and organised a networking session devoted to Euro-Southeast Asia cooperation on ICT research.

Other promotion, awareness, and dissemination activities have also developed all along the project: periodic emailings based on the targeted contact databases of the SEACOOP partners, direct contacts with organisations planning to be involved in the development of cooperation in ICT research between the two regions, visits of leading research organisations in Europe and in Southeast Asia (particularly on the occasion of project events), etc.



IDENTIFICATION OF, AND SUPPORT TO COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

All along the project a lot of efforts have been done by SEACOOP project partners to identify opportunities of strategic cooperation on ICT research between the two regions, through a combined approach:

- a “top-down approach”, based on the vision provided by the Authorities of both regions, namely of the occasion of “SEACOOP Seminars” organised in Europe, with the participation of all SEACOOP members, of the European Commission, and of the ASEAN Secretariat,
- a “bottom-up approach”, based on the suggestions expressed by European and Southeast Asian organisations, in particular during project events and following a consultation launched of the project web site, which revealed to be very successful since over 100 proposals have been received.

The information collected through these two approaches has been analysed into detail by the SEACOOP partnership and complemented by further relevant information, including a mapping of excellence research centers in the ICT domain in the various Southeast Asian countries (a database made available online on the project web site), and has led to a set of recommendations.



However, such an exercise remains difficult and has to be further developed in the future. The main reason is that the basic legitimacy of the exercise (and of the support action as a whole) is the opportunity provided by the FP7 research funding programme to support the development of potential projects which would be identified. The problem is that the FP7 ICT work programme cannot be easily (or at least “instantly”) influenced by the outputs of a support action, which would recommend to add some focused research projects (Specific International Cooperation Actions, SICAs), or joint calls, or any other similar suggestions into this work programme.

Hence, there is an intrinsic discrepancy between the conclusions of an exercise aiming at identifying key cooperation opportunities and what the FP7 ICT work programme specifies in terms of priorities.

In this context, what a project such as SEACOOP can do, and has effectively done, is:

- to perform the exercise and promote its outputs at the level of the instances in charge of the revision of the FP7 ICT work programme, with the hope that their recommendations can eventually be taken into consideration in a future version of the work programme,
- to promote the strengthening of cooperation between the two regions, and provide information, support and guidance to organisations from both regions intending to submit proposals at coming Calls (with a work programme in its present status), thus leading to an increase in the number of cooperation projects, even if all cannot be considered as in line with identified strategic areas of cooperation.

It is estimated that SEACOOP activities have succeeded to contribute to the emergence of around 50 potential cooperation projects which could be submitted to coming FP7 ICT Calls (out of them, 30 to 35 have been discussed at the Forum of October 2008), which is, in the above mentioned environment, quite a satisfactory result.

PROJECT PERSPECTIVES

The SEACOOP project has allowed to create an important momentum supporting a stronger development of S&T cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia, and opening new perspectives for the participation of Southeast Asian organisations in FP7 Calls for proposals.

It is essential, when international cooperation activities are concerned, and particularly when such a momentum has been created, that continuity can be ensured.

This is why the SEACOOP partners have decided to create, in March 2009, the “EU-SEA ICT Cooperation Network”, a network including the present SEACOOP partners but also national Agencies from Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, and Myanmar so that all Southeast Asian countries can be represented. In the short term, the activities of this constituency will consist in the continuation of basic SEACOOP activities (web site, exchange of information, help desk, etc.), in line with the overall objective of supporting the development of cooperation on ICT research between Europe and Southeast Asia. In the longer term, public and private resources will be sought to allow this group to develop more substantial activities.



OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

“Time has come for EU and ASEAN to enter a new phase of strategic partnership of mutual interest, both at the bilateral and multilateral levels”

Ms Viviane Reding, European Commissioner for Information Society and Media

Opening address of the “2008 Euro-Southeast Asia Cooperation Forum on ICT research”
Brussels, October 6-7, 2008

When launching the SEACOOP project in mid-2007, it was envisioned that the development of S&T cooperation on ICT between Europe and Southeast Asia should move from a period of awareness and promotion addressing a broad ICT focus to a period of concrete cooperation focusing on a set of opportunities of mutual strategic interest and benefit, identified in close liaison with the European and Southeast Asian ICT communities as a whole, and which would be in line with the policies and priorities of the authorities from both regions.

This is why one of the main project objectives set at that date was “identifying, promoting and supporting 10 to 15 key opportunities of strategic cooperation, the project ambition being that these opportunities can be transformed, before the end of the project, into major cooperation initiatives or flagships projects between the EU and Southeast Asia in the ICT area”.

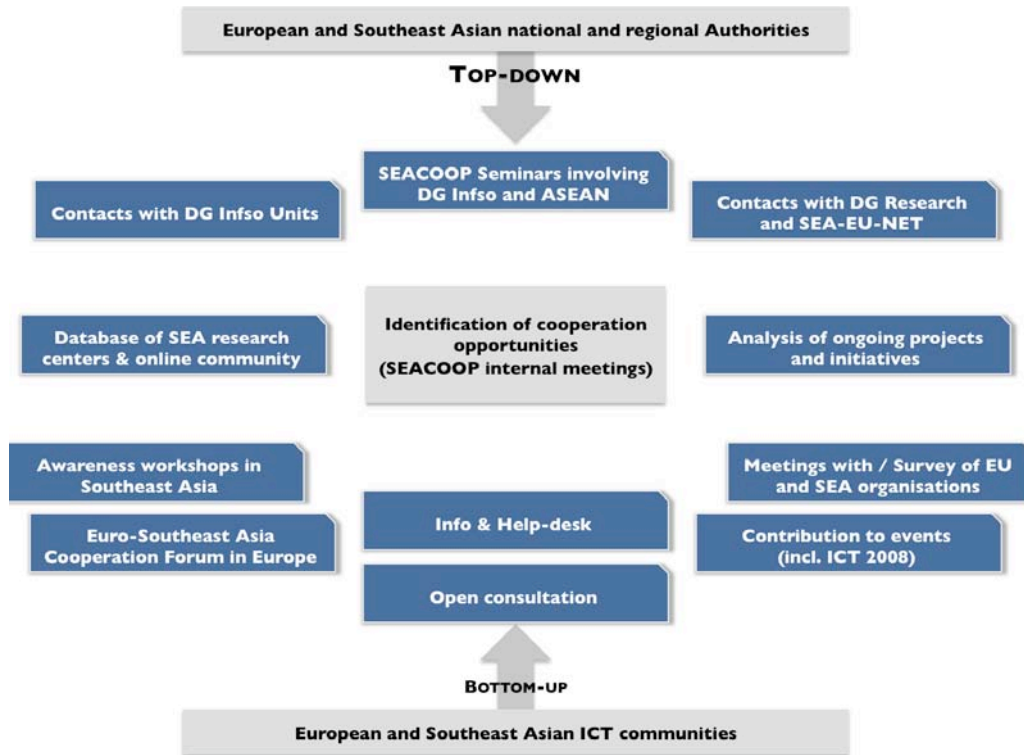
In order to identify such opportunities, a combined “top-down” and “bottom-up” approach had to be logically followed, involving in the identification process the two main groups of stakeholders:

- (top-down) The Authorities in Europe and in Southeast Asia: on the basis of their policy priorities (and on the frequent contacts they have with their ICT communities) they are well qualified to assess that a given cooperation opportunity (typically of a medium to large scale) is of strategic and mutual interest, should be pushed, and possibly supported through their programmes.
 - to be noted: ‘Authorities’ can be, in Europe or in Southeast Asia, national ones (Member States in the EU) or regional ones (the European Commission and ASEAN).
- (bottom-up) The organisations active in the ICT area in Europe and in Southeast Asia (large companies, SMEs, universities, research organisations, etc.): considering the strategy of their organisations and the links that they may have already developed with organisations from the other region, they are well qualified to assess that a given cooperation project they are envisioning (typically of a small to large scale) is a “strategic cooperation project”.



SEACOOP: COMBINING “BOTTOM-UP” AND “TOP-DOWN” APPROACHES
TO IDENTIFY TRUE STRATEGIC COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES,
I.E. (POSSIBLY) IN LINE WITH POLICIES AND INVOLVING THE RIGHT ICT ORGANISATIONS
(through an expected iterative process since a number of strategic cooperation opportunities cannot be identified and ready for implementation at once).

The combined approach introduced above has been implemented all along the SEACOOP project through a number of activities that are illustrated below and detailed in the next section, constituting in our mind a true complete set of means allowing to identify (and also promote and support) key opportunities of cooperation between the two regions.



ACTIVITIES DEVELOPED THROUGH THE SEACOOP PROJECT TO IDENTIFY KEY OPPORTUNITIES OF COOPERATION ON ICT RESEARCH BETWEEN EUROPE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA.

SEACOOP ACTIVITIES AIMING AT IDENTIFYING COOPERATION OPPORTUNITIES

Database of Southeast Asian research centers and online community

Cooperation starts with connection... In order that contacts between European and Southeast Asian organisations can develop and that, eventually, cooperation projects can emerge and strengthen, two online facilities have been implemented by the SEACOOP partnership on the <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org> web site.

First, the Southeast Asian SEACOOP partners have carefully identified, in their countries, the research laboratories which could be considered as the most advanced ones in the ICT area. A total of over 170 such laboratories (representing around 100 organisations) have been identified, the information collected by each partner (laboratory name and contact details, competencies mapped with FP7 priorities, etc.) being consolidated into a database made available in a free area of the <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org> web site, so that organisations (particularly European ones) looking for potential partners can conveniently identify and contact them.



In parallel, the SEACOOP web site proposed any interested European and Southeast Asian ICT researchers to join a free of charge online community whose members could, in a first step, in a restricted area, browse the short profiles, ID pictures and contact information (email addresses) of researchers willing to benefit from a targeted contact network. The vision is that a “Community of interest” constituted in a first step could evolve towards a true “Community of practice” (able to efficiently develop cooperation projects). The feedback from European and Southeast Asian ICT organisations has been quite good since this community today counts over 130 members.

| Organization | Lab/Initiatives | Contact Details | Country | Addressed FP7/ICT Challenges | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------|------------------------------|-----|-----|----------|-----|----------|---|---|--|--|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | |
| Agency for the Assessment and Application of Technology (BPPT) | Center for Information and Communication Technology | Dr. Tatang A. Taufik, Director of Center of ICT, Tatang@inn.bppt.go.id | Indonesia | 1.1 | | 3.5 | 4.2 | 5.1 | 6.3 | | | | |
| Surabaya Institute of Technology (ITS) | Institute of Research and Community Service | Dr. Gamantyo Hendrartono, gamantyo@ee.its.ac.id | Indonesia | | 2.1 | 3.4 | | 5.2 | 6.2, 6.3 | | | | |
| Indonesia University (UI) | Department of Computer Science | Dr. Bobby Nazief, nazief@cs.ui.ac.id | Indonesia | 1.2 | 2.1 | 3.5 | 4.1, 4.2 | 5.1 | 6.3 | | | | |
| Bandung Institute of Technology (ITB) | Microelectronics Research Center | Dr. Trio Adiono, tadiono@paume.itb.ac.id | Indonesia | 3.5 | | | | | 6.1 | | | | |
| | School of Electronics and Information Technology | Prof. Adang Suwandi Ahmad, stei@stei.itb.ac.id | Indonesia | 1.1, 1.2, 1.3 | | | 4.2 | 5.2 | | | | | |
| Indonesia University (UI) | Center For Information and Communication Engineering Research | Dr. Asvial, asvial@ee.ui.ac.id | Indonesia | | | 3.5 | | | 6.1, 6.3 | | | | |
| Indonesian Institute for Sciences (LIPI) | Research Center for Informatics | Tigor Nauli, info@informatika.lipi.go.id | Indonesia | 1.2 | 2.1 | | | | | | | | |
| | Research Center for Electronics and Telecommunication | Dr. Hiskia, info@ppet.lipi.go.id | Indonesia | 1.1 | | 3.3 | | | | | | | |
| Gajah Mada University (UGM) | Departement of Electronics Engineering | Dr. Thomas Sri Widodo, thomas@mti.ugm.ac.id | Indonesia | 1 | | 3 | | | | | | | |

EXTRACT FROM THE ONLINE DATABASE OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CENTERS IN ICT

Open consultation

In order that the cooperation priorities of ICT organisations from both regions can be more openly expressed and more easily apprehended, an open consultation was launched during the first half of 2008 on the SEACOOP <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org> web site. Organisations envisioning potential cooperation projects were suggested to fill in a Consultation form, and send it back before the Cooperation Forum that the project had to organise in October 2008 (since selected contributions would be invited to be presented during the Forum).

The initiative was quite successful since over 100 contributions from European and Southeast Asian organisations, and often from consortia involving organisations from both regions, have been received (and consolidated into a SEACOOP document, of confidential status, dated September 2008). Some of these contributions, proposed by organisations willing to make them available in order that their projects can be given more visibility and may attract potential partners, have been (and still are) posted on the SEACOOP <http://www.eurosoutheastasia-ict.org> web site.



EXTRACT FROM THE DOCUMENT AVAILABLE ONLINE AND PRESENTING THE CONTRIBUTIONS RECEIVED FOLLOWING THE OPEN CONSULTATION

Awareness workshops in Southeast Asia



Three awareness workshops have been organised by the SEACOOP project in Southeast Asia: in Hanoi, Vietnam (April 17, 2008), Phnom Penh, Cambodia (April 24, 2008), and Vientiane, Lao PDR (May 22, 2008).

The main objective of these events (each of them attracting around 100 participants and being given quite a large visibility in the local media through press and TV reports) was to introduce the FP7 research funding programme, and explain how ICT organisations from the given country could be involved in joint EU-funded R&D projects with European organisations.

But these workshops also provided a key opportunity to directly interact with leading ICT organisations interested in cooperation opportunities under FP7, to better apprehend their profiles and their expectations, to better understand the problems they might be facing when trying to develop cooperation projects with European organisations, and to provide them direct support and guidance concerning the potential cooperation projects they might envision.

On this occasion, useful contacts were developed too with local Authorities (Ministries, EU Delegations and EU Member States Embassies) traditionally invited to contribute to the workshop opening sessions, which allowed in particular to better apprehend policy priorities and possible synergies with existing programmes.

Info and help-desk

All along the project, each SEACOOP partner offered the services of an “Info and help desk”, providing information, support and guidance to research organisations from their countries (from Europe for the project coordinator) interested in the development of joint research projects between the two regions.

Even if such services are quite time consuming (each partner typically receiving at least a couple of requests per week, some necessitating quite a substantial time to cope with), they have revealed to be very useful to identify particularly motivated organisations, and involve them in the overall exercise of identifying strategic cooperation opportunities.

Contribution to events



The SEACOOP project has contributed (through presentations and exhibition booths) to many external events in both regions (see below table), among which a strong participation in the European Commission’s ICT event of November 25-27, 2008 in Lyon, France: the SEACOOP project was responsible of an exhibition booth in the International area of the ICT 2008 exhibition and organised a networking session devoted to Euro-Southeast Asia cooperation on ICT research. This activity revealed to be very relevant not only to promote the SEACOOP initiative as a whole and secure a higher involvement of ICT organisations from both regions in project activities, but also to develop direct contacts with key organisations and discuss with them the strategic cooperation opportunities to consider.

| Event | Location | Date | Impact | Experience Gained |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------|---|---|
| CATER workshop | Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia | March 2009 | 100 participants | An interesting opportunity to take advantage of a successful ongoing project (with SEA participation) to promote a stronger involvement of SEA organizations in FP7 |
| APRICOT 2009 | Manila, Philippines | Feb 09 | Hundreds of participants | Opportunity of event co-location |
| SinFra Symposium | Fusionopolis, Singapore | Feb 2009 | Hundreds of participants | Sideline, Awareness/ Promotion on SEACOOP and FP7 |
| Workshop on ICT development | Can Tho City, Vietnam | Aug 2008 | Around 100 participants | High enthusiasm, although new experience in Vietnam |
| EU-SEA-NET Event | Paris, France | Nov 2008 | Around 100 European and Southeast Asian delegates | The outcomes of the EU-SEA SEACOOP Cooperation forum have been usefully presented and discussed |
| ICT event | Lyon, France | Nov 2008 | Over 4000 participants | The SEACOOP project had a specific networking session dedicated to the cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia on ICT research + an exhibition stand during the three-day event |
| NEM Summit | Saint-Malo, France | Oct 2008 | 400 delegates | Some cooperation opportunities between Europe and Southeast Asia in the field of networked electronic media have been identified |

CONTRIBUTION OF THE SEACOOP PROJECT TO EXTERNAL EVENTS: OVERVIEW

Contacts with DG Research and the SEA-EU-NET project

Specific meetings have been organised during the project with European Commission’s DG Research, in liaison with the SEACOOP project officer at DG Information Society and Media, in order to identify and foster synergies between the activities from the two DGs aiming at supporting the development of S&T cooperation between Europe and Southeast Asia.

This liaison has led in particular to establishing close links between SEACOOP and the SEA-EU-NET project funded by DG Research and aiming at “priority setting and definition of S&T cooperation policies” (at a non-thematic level, while SEACOOP

focuses on ICT). During the course of the project, detailed information has been exchanged between the two projects, contribution of each project to the other project's events has been implemented, cross-promotion of activities has developed and further synergies (such as co-location of events) has been envisioned.

Such links revealed to be essential to ensure the greatest overall efficiency and impact of the two projects, and particularly their influence on ongoing policy dialogues (to give more visibility to identified opportunities) and on the revision of the FP7 work programme (to include more focus on Southeast Asia for instance).

Meeting with, and survey of European and Southeast Asian organisations



A number of specific meetings with leading organisations from both regions, involving one SEACOOP partner or several of them, having been organised all along the project, often on the occasion of project events (in this case, the meeting was typically preceded or followed by a technical visit). Each of these meetings revealed to be very useful to thoroughly understand the strategies and expectations of these organisations and discuss with them the way they could be involved in the cooperation opportunities already identified by the project, or the support the SEACOOP project could bring in the development phase of the projects in others they would envision.

Beyond these meetings, European and Southeast Asian organisations have been systematically surveyed all along the project, through email blasts or "forums" organised by SEACOOP Southeast Asian partners in their countries, in order to get inputs from interested organisations, establish linkages and enhance partnerships for potential projects, gauge interest, commitment and readiness of potential partners, etc.

These surveys have been useful and have allowed in particular to identify or fine tune some potential projects (see table below) which SEACOOP partners decided to further formalise and promote.

| <i>As of June 20, 2008</i> | | |
|--------------------------------|---|---|
| | Project scope | Project status |
| ICT Standards | To identify specific developments of mutual interest in this area | Contacts already developed with ESTI, with Ms Margot Dor. The SEACOOP consortium has been also invited to visit the ETSI Headquarters in Sophia last April. |
| Cater II | To identify specific developments of mutual interest in this area | Contacts already developed with Damai University, the SEACOOP project has also been invited to take part of the last Cater consortium meeting in Singapore |
| SEACOOP virtual island | To identify specific developments of mutual interest in this area | Contacts already developed with David Wortley, Director of the Serious Games Institute |
| eInfrastructures | To further develop eInfrastructures in SEA and their connection to GEANT | The specialised DG Info Unit would support the idea if developed in close liaison with TEIN2-3 (and EU-SEA-NET) - Positive contacts already developed |
| Natural disasters | To identify specific developments of mutual interest in this area and jointly develop them | A priority for many if not most partners and the support of many organisations such as Damai Sciences |
| Other possible projects | RFID food tracability / food safety, Exploitation of EU research, multilanguage, voice recognition, ontologies, "crazy" (very advanced / visible) projects (robots on a rice grain, the world largest...) | Preliminary phase (informal discussion between partners) |

POTENTIAL COOPERATION PROJECTS ENVISIONED BY SEACOOP PARTNERS
(BASED ON THEIR INFORMATION AND EXPERIENCE AND ON THE DIRECT CONTACTS WITH ORGANISATIONS FROM BOTH REGIONS)

Analysis of ongoing projects and initiatives

Ongoing projects and initiatives, at bilateral and multilateral levels (including EU-funded projects) logically offer a basis (existing partnerships, achieved results, identified priorities, envisioned perspectives, etc.) from which (even more) strategic cooperation projects may develop.

The SEACOOP partners have therefore carefully analysed such projects (see table below), mapped their scope with FP7 challenges, and contacted them to evaluate the possibility to build on them in the framework of the SEACOOP initiative.

| | Number of projects |
|--|--------------------|
| 1.1 The network of future | 3 |
| 1.4 Secure, dependable and trusted infrastructures | 1 |
| 3.5 Photonic components and subsystems | 1 |
| 4.1 Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning | 2 |
| 4.2 Intelligent content and semantics | 1 |
| 5.1 Personal health systems for monitoring and point-of-care diagnostics | 1 |
| 6.1 ICT for the intelligent vehicles and mobility services | 1 |
| 6.3 ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency | 2 |
| International cooperation | 4 |

MAPPING OF ONGOING PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES WITH FP7 ICT CHALLENGES

Euro-Southeast Asia Cooperation Forum in Europe



This Forum has been organised by the SEACOOP project on October 6-7, 2008 at the Radisson SAS Royal Hotel in Brussels, under the aegis of the European Commission and of ASEAN.

It was the first of its kind ever organised in Europe and attracted around 250 delegates, including over 100 representatives from leading Southeast Asian organisations in the ICT area.

It had been considered, since the launch of the SEACOOP project, as one of the most important moment in the project lifetime to make a significant step in the effective identification of cooperation opportunities between the two regions, and this because the event was taking place:

- one year after the launch of the project, i.e. at a time when many project activities had already been developed and when, in particular, the process of identifying strategic cooperation opportunities was well advanced and could be thoroughly discussed with interested European and Southeast Asian research organisations,
- only some weeks before the launch of important FP7 Calls for proposals in the ICT sector (ICT Call 4 and infrastructures Call 5), thus allowing to truly turn emerging cooperation opportunities into proposals to be submitted at these Calls,
- in Brussels, thus ensuring an important participation of Units of DG Information Society and Media, who could thus directly provide their remarks and suggestions concerning the cooperation opportunities identified for the different research topics.

For all these reasons, the event structure included a number of parallel thematic sessions allowing participants to discuss potential projects in each thematic area and ample time was left during the two days to facilitate networking between participants.

| | Academia | Industries | Institutions | Others | Total |
|----------------|------------|------------|--------------|-----------|------------|
| EU | 54 | 42 | 33 | 15 | 144 |
| Southeast Asia | 64 | 20 | 28 | 0 | 112 |
| Others | 6 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 18 |
| Total | 124 | 67 | 65 | 18 | 274 |

EURO-SOUTHEAST ASIA COOPERATION FORUM OF OCT. 6-7, 2008 - ORIGIN OF PARTICIPANTS

During the closing plenary session, reports presented by the rapporteurs of each session indicated that a total of 30-35 well-advanced potential cooperation projects had been introduced and discussed, which should lead to a great number of proposals,

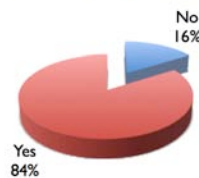
with the participation of Southeast Asian organisations, to be presented at future FP7 Calls. It was also mentioned that other potential cooperation projects would probably be fine tuned in the next weeks and months by organisations from the two regions having participated in the event.

These results have been confirmed by the analysis that the SEACOOP partnership has made in the days following the event from the information they collected during each session and from the results of a survey of European and Southeast Asian participants (see below).

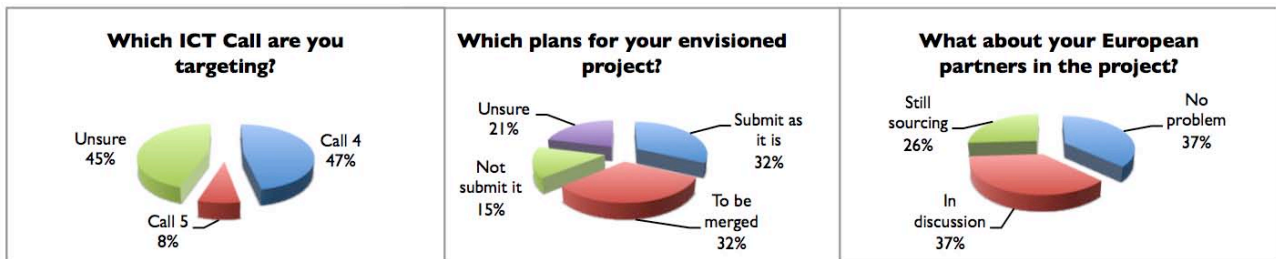
| | |
|--|-----|
| Bottom-up Contributions as of 22 Sep 08 | 109 |
| Total Number of Proposals registered for Forum | 86 |
| Proposals - Follow-up Needed | 47 |
| Proposals - More Development Needed | 27 |
| Proposals - For Info Only | 12 |

ANALYSIS BY THE SEACOOP PARTNERSHIP OF THE PERSPECTIVES OF THE PROPOSALS SUBMITTED IN RESPONSE TO THE OPEN CONSULTATION AND PRESENTED AT THE FORUM OF OCT. 6-7, 2008

Are you willing or intending to submit proposals in response to coming FP7 Calls?



RESULTS OF THE POST-EVENT SURVEY OF ALL DELEGATES



RESULTS OF THE POST-EVENT SURVEY OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN DELEGATES

Contacts with DG Info Units



Beyond the above-mentioned contacts established with the Units of DG Information Society and Media during the Forum of Oct. 6-7, 2008, frequent contacts have been established all along the project with them (through the SEACOOP project officer or specific meetings involving one or several Units), in order to present them the draft conclusions of the work aiming at identifying strategic cooperation opportunities, getting their feedback, remarks and suggestions, etc. These contacts have logically revealed to be very important to make sure of the relevance, and of the chances of success of envisioned opportunities.

The SEACOOP partnership has even had the honour that Commissioner Viviane Reding participates in one of its meetings (in June 2008 in Singapore) during which she kindly encouraged the partnership efforts to identify strategic cooperation opportunities.

SEACOOP Seminars involving DG Info and ASEAN



Two Seminars, with the participation of the whole SEACOOP partnership and of representatives from the European Commission and from the ASEAN Secretariat have been organised in Brussels, in April and October 2008.

They allowed the partnership to present the status of their work and get in return valuable remarks and suggestions from the Authorities from both regions, thus being in a better position to finalise their approach while making sure it would be in line with the vision of these Authorities.

SEACOOP internal meetings

During the project lifetime (18 months), plenary meetings of the SEACOOP partnership have been organised on a regular basis (every 3 months in average). The discussion of the work related to the identification (promotion and support) of strategic cooperation opportunities was a major item on the agenda of each of these meetings, leading to thorough discussions on the information collected or to be collected, and on the analyses done or to be done. Beyond what has already been presented in the previous paragraphs, a number of other research outputs have to be mentioned and are detailed below.

COMMON PRIORITIES IN ASEAN COUNTRIES

Based on the consolidation and analysis of ASEAN consortium partners' survey responses, it was observed by the consortium partners that there were 2 major FP7 ICT priorities matched (I.1 and 6.3) which were common national priorities across a majority of ASEAN country respondents. The key technology and application areas are outlined in the below tables.

| Technology Area | Application Area |
|--|---|
| I.1 - The Network of the Future | |
| Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Generation Broadband Network Grid Computing Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next Generation Broadband Network Grid Computing Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Small satellite, Cellular/Wireless network; Low bandwidth technologies | Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiber-to-the-Home Pervasive nationwide hotspot coverage TEIN2, GEANT Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rural Telecommunication Web Mining Service Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT4Environment; Weather monitoring, disaster/risk management; e-Science; Telemedicine; Earth observation |
| 6.3 - ICT for the Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency | |
| Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Millimeter-wave broadband wireless for tropical countries Wireless Chip Design, Integrated Satellite & Terrestrial Network for Mobile Broadband Land cover image Ground penetration radar (GPR) Malaysia, Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID GIS for land and national resources management Singapore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated weather station meteorological data capture (station) Synoptic/agromet/clim atological stations Agricultural data monitoring system Geographic information system | Indonesia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wireless sensor network for environment monitoring Wireless multi-hop network for national disaster early warning system Low power architecture design for OFDM on Baseband Processor Cross Layer Optimization for Multicasting Data Transmission e-forestry Malaysia, Vietnam <ul style="list-style-type: none"> RFID for food traceability Detection of natural disasters ICT for agriculture & forestry Singapore <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logistics Philippines <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ICT4Environment Weather monitoring Disaster/risk management ICT for Natural resource management |

MAPPING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONAL ICT POLICIES AND PRIORITIES WITH FP7 ONES

Another analysis that was conducted by the consortium partners was the mapping of each ASEAN country’s national ICT policies and priorities with the FP7 ICT Challenges and ranking the national ICT policies according to order of priority. Based on the analysis of the data, it was observed by the consortium partners that the following FP7 ICT Challenges appeared to be common across a majority of the ASEAN countries:

- Challenge 1.1 - The Network of the Future
- Challenge 1.2 - Service and Software Architectures, Infrastructures and Engineering
- Challenge 1.3 - ICT in support of the Networked Enterprise
- Challenge 4.1 - Digital Libraries and Technology-enhanced Learning
- Challenge 6.3 - ICT for the Environmental Management and Energy Efficiency

| Country Priorities | Indonesia | Malaysia | Singapore | Vietnam | Cambodia | Thailand | Philippines |
|--------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------------------------|---------------|----------|-------------|
| 1 | 1.1, 6.1 | 3,3 | 1,1 | 1.1, 1.3, 3.6, 4.1, 4.2 | 1.2, 1.3, 1.4 | 1,3 | 1,2 |
| 2 | 1.2, 6.1 | 5,1 | 1,3 | | 4.1, 5.1 | 3,3 | 3,4 |
| 3 | 4.1, 4.2 | 7,2 | 1,5 | | 1,1 | 4,1 | 3.3, 3.6 |
| 4 | 2,1 | 1,5 | 1,4 | | 6,3 | 7,2 | 1,1 |
| 5 | 6,3 | 1,1 | 4,1 | | 6,1 | 6,3 | 6,3 |
| 6 | | 3,7 | 6,3 | | | 5,1 | 5,1 |
| 7 | | 3,6 | 7,1 | | | 1,2 | |
| 8 | | | | | | 6,1 | 4,1 |
| 9 | | | | | | 3,5 | 1,4 |
| 10 | | | | | | 2,1 | |

SEACOOP MAPPING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONAL ICT POLICIES AND PRIORITIES WITH FP7 ONES

MAPPING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN MULTINATIONAL PRIORITIES WITH FP7 ONES

Another analysis that was conducted by the consortium partners was the mapping of ASEAN multi-national ICT priorities with the FP7 ICT Challenges and tabulating the keywords (see table next page) that were observed in the definition and titles of the ASEAN multi-national ICT priorities.

Based on the analysis of the data, it was observed by the consortium partners that some FP7 ICT Challenges appeared to be common across a majority of the ASEAN countries, i.e. in 5 or more countries.

In 6 countries

- Challenge 1.4 - Secure, dependable and trusted infrastructures
- Challenge 3.3 - Embedded systems design

In 5 countries

- Challenge 4.1 - Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning
- Challenge 6.3 - ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency
- Challenge 1.2 - Service and software architectures, infrastructures and engineering
- Challenge 5.1 - Personal health systems for monitoring and point-of-care diagnostics
- Challenge 7.2 - Accessible and inclusive ICT

| Keywords Identified | Philippines | Singapore | Indonesia | Malaysia | Vietnam | Cambodia | Thailand | Total | FP7 ICT Challenge |
|---|-------------|-----------|-----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|-------|-------------------|
| Information security | x | x | x | | x | x | x | 6 | 1.4 |
| Embedded systems | x | x | x | x | x | | x | 6 | 3.3 |
| Digital Libraries and Technologies enhancing learning | x | x | | | x | x | x | 5 | 4.1 |
| ICT for environment and energy management | x | | x | | x | x | x | 5 | 6.3 |
| Open source / open standards | x | | x | | x | x | x | 5 | 1.2 |
| E health | x | x | | x | x | | x | 5 | 5.1 |
| Low cost computing & Accessible and inclusive ICT | x | | x | x | | x | x | 5 | 7.2 |
| RFID | | | x | | x | x | x | 4 | 3.7 |
| Advanced networking / next generation networking | x | x | x | | x | | | 4 | 1.1 |
| Grid computing | x | | x | | x | | | 3 | 3.4 |
| Web technologies | x | | x | | | x | | 3 | 1.2,4.2 |
| Animation - Multimedia technologies | x | x | | x | | | | 3 | 1.5 |
| Wireless Broadband | | | x | x | | | | 2 | 1.1 |
| Wireless Sensor Network | | | x | x | | | | 2 | 3.7 |
| Robotic and automation | | | | | | | x | 1 | 2.1 |
| Chip design | | | | | x | | | 1 | 3.1 |
| Intelligent vehicular and mobility services | | | | | | | x | 1 | 6.1 |
| MEMS & NEMS including micro energy issues | | | | x | | | | 1 | 3.6 |

SEACOOP MAPPING OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN MULTINATIONAL PRIORITIES WITH FP7 ONES: TABULATING KEYWORDS

ASEAN PRIORITIES

Further evidence was collected from the ASEAN Committee on Science and Technology (ASEAN COST) - Sub-Committee on Microelectronics and Information Technology (SCMIT) and based on the sub-Committee's findings, it was observed that the key priority areas for work plan 2007-2011 included the following ICT areas:

- Microelectronics and IC Design
- Multimedia Applications and e-Learning
- Embedded Systems and Robotics
- Open Source Systems
- Image Processing and Vision Systems
- Security and Surveillance Systems

MAPPING OF THE SPECIALISATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CENTERS WITH FP7 CHALLENGES

The SEACOOP partners have collectively identified and mapped the specialisation of the Southeast Asian excellence research centers (already introduced above) with specific FP7 ICT Challenges (see table next page).

Based on the analysis of the data, it was observed that the FP7 ICT Challenges that can be mapped with competencies found in the majority of the ASEAN countries included the following:

- In 6 countries:
 - Challenge 1.2 - Service and software architectures, infrastructures and engineering
 - Challenge 3.3 - Embedded systems design
- In 5 countries:
 - Challenge 1.1 - The network of the future
 - Challenge 1.3 - ICT in support of the networked enterprise
 - Challenge 4.1 - Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning
 - Challenge 5.1 - Personal health systems for monitoring and point-of-care diagnostics
 - Challenge 6.1 - ICT for the intelligent vehicles and mobility services
 - Challenge 6.3 - ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency

| | | Indonesia | Malaysia | Philippines | Singapore | Thailand | Vietnam | |
|---|---------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|---------|-----------|
| Challenge 1: Pervasive and trusted network and service infrastructures | Centres | | | | | | | Countries |
| 1. The network of the future | 24 | √√√ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√ | √√√ | | √√ | 5 |
| 2. Service and software architectures, infrastructures and engineering | 27 | √√√ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√ | √√√ | √√ | √√√ | 6 |
| 3. ICT in support of the networked enterprise | 21 | √ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√ | √√ | | √ | 5 |
| 4. Secure, dependable and trusted infrastructures | 18 | | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√ | √√ | | √ | 4 |
| 5. Networked media | 16 | | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√ | √√ | | | 3 |
| 6. New Paradigms and experimental facilities | 9 | | √√√√√ | | √√√√ | | | 2 |
| 7. Critical infrastructure protection | 12 | | √√√√√√√√√√ | | | | √√ | 2 |
| Challenge 2: Cognitive systems, interaction, robotics | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Cognitive systems, interaction, robotics | 13 | √√√ | √√√√√√√√ | | | | √√ | 3 |
| Challenge 3: Components, systems, engineering | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Next generation nanoelectronics components and electronics integration | 20 | √ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√ | √√√√√ | | | 4 |
| 2. Organic and large-area electronics and display systems | 3 | | √ | | | √ | √ | 3 |
| 3. Embedded systems design | 23 | √ | √√√√√√√√ | √√√√√√ | √√√ | √ | √ | 6 |
| 4. Computing systems | 19 | √ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√√√√√√ | | | √ | 3 |
| 5. Photonic components and subsystems | 11 | √√√√ | √√√√ | √ | √√ | | | 4 |
| 6. Micro/nanosystems | 23 | | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√ | √√√√√√√√ | | | 3 |
| 7. Networked embedded and control systems | 15 | | √√√√√√√√ | √√√√ | √ | | √ | 4 |
| Challenge 4: Digital libraries and content | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning | 22 | √ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√√ | √ | | √ | 5 |
| 2. Intelligent content and semantics | 19 | √√√ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √√√ | √ | | | 4 |
| Challenge 5: Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare | | | | | | | | |
| 1. Personal health systems for monitoring and point-of-care diagnostics | 8 | √√ | √√√ | √ | √ | √ | | 5 |
| 2. Advanced ICT for risk assessment and patient safety | 6 | √√ | √√√√ | | √ | | | 3 |
| 3. Virtual physiological human | 4 | | √√√√ | | | | | 1 |
| Challenge 6: ICT for mobility, environmental sustainability, and energy efficiency | | | | | | | | |
| 1. ICT for the intelligent vehicles and mobility services | 13 | √√ | √√√√√√ | | √√ | √ | √√ | 5 |
| 2. ICT for cooperative systems | 18 | √ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √ | | | √√ | 4 |
| 3. ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency | 22 | √√√√ | √√√√√√√√√√ | √ | √ | | √√√ | 5 |
| Challenge 7: ICT for independent living and inclusion | | | | | | | | |
| 1. ICT and ageing | 3 | | √ | | √ | | √ | 3 |
| 2. Accessible and inclusive ICT | 5 | | √√√ | | | √ | √ | 3 |
| B: Future and Emerging Technologies | 15 | | √√√√√√√√ | √ | √√√√ | | √√√ | 4 |

MAPPING OF THE SPECIALISATION OF SOUTHEAST ASIAN EXCELLENCE RESEARCH CENTERS WITH FP7 CHALLENGES

OVERALL FINDINGS

Based on the various approaches adopted by the consortium partners to derive their analysis, it was evident that all FP7 ICT Challenges are relevant to the ASEAN countries.

It was however observed that the following FP7 ICT Challenges were common from the analysis across the various approaches:

- Challenge 1.1 - The network of the future
- Challenge 4.1 - Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning
- Challenge 6.3 - ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency

CONCLUSIONS AND LESSONS LEARNED

The conclusions and lessons learned presented in this chapter are based not only on the work developed in the framework of SEACOOP activities, but also on the experience gained by SEACOOP partners in other projects addressing the development of international cooperation on ICT research. The SEACOOP partnership therefore hopes that the information presented here can be of interest beyond the sole EU-ASEAN framework, and can notably be taken into consideration in the definition or implementation of many FP7 projects focusing on international cooperation.

A successful exercise but unexpected results and a need to further develop it

When launching the SEACOOP project, the vision was that 10 to 15 strategic cooperation projects would be identified and eventually transformed before the end of the project into flagship projects, possibly supported under FP7, between Europe and Southeast Asia.

The SEACOOP partnership has the modest feeling that all possible activities have been implemented to reach this overall objective (see previous chapter) and that what was seen (and is still seen) as an appropriate approach has been adopted: a **combined « top-down » and « bottom-up » approach**, taking into consideration the priorities of the Authorities of both regions and the priorities expressed by the European and Southeast Asian ICT communities as well.

Southeast Asian priorities have been analysed in detail, at the level of each country, at multinational level, and at the one of ASEAN, these priorities being systematically mapped with FP7 priorities (logically considered as European priorities). Southeast Asian excellence research centers in ICT have been identified and their competencies mapped as well with FP7 priorities.

The main findings have been that:

- European and Southeast Asian priorities appear to be quite identical and **the 7 challenges of FP7 in ICT can be considered as a relevant list of priority themes to be referred to by the Authorities of both regions** in their efforts to further extend their S&T cooperation in ICT. This result was not really expected at the start of the exercise but has become more and more logical all along the project since ASEAN, even if it is still constituted of countries with a wide range of development status, has been progressively becoming a true emerging regional economy with logically similar priorities, as far as ICT is concerned, than the ones of a developed economy such as the EU,
- From the analysis of Southeast Asian priorities, it appears that some FP7 objectives (or sub-Challenges) can however be considered as more promising: **The network of the future, Digital libraries and technology-enhanced learning, ICT for the environmental management and energy efficiency**. This conclusion is however only preliminary and should be further worked out since, if the SEACOOP project allowed an intense concertation between Southeast Asian countries to reach such conclusions, this concertation could not be fully developed in the timeframe of the project and should be continued.

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Pervasive and Trustworthy Network and Service Infrastructure | 1.1 The Network of the Future |
| | 1.2 Internet of Services, Software & virtualisation |
| | 1.3 Internet of Things and enterprise environments |
| | 1.4 Trustworthy ICT |
| | 1.5 Networked Media & 3D Internet |
| | 1.6 Future Internet Experimental Facility & Experimentally-driven Research |
| 2. Cognitive Systems, Interaction, Robotics | 2.1 Cognitive Systems and Robotics |
| | 2.2 Language Based Interaction |
| 3. Components, systems, engineering | 3.1 Nanoelectronics Technology |
| | 3.2 Design of Semiconductor Components and Electronic-based Miniaturised Systems |
| | 3.3 Flexible, Organic and Large Area Electronics |
| | 3.4 Embedded Systems Design |
| | 3.5 Engineering of Networked Monitoring and Control Systems |
| | 3.6 Computing Systems |
| | 3.7 Photonics |
| | 3.8 Organic Photonics and other Disruptive Photonics Technologies |
| | 3.9 Microsystems and Smart Miniaturised Systems |
| 4. Digital Libraries and Content | 4.1 Digital libraries and digital preservation |
| | 4.2 Technology-Enhanced Learning |
| | 4.3 Intelligent information management |
| 5. Towards sustainable and personalised healthcare | 5.1 Personal Health Systems |
| | 5.2 ICT for Patient Safety |
| | 5.3 Virtual Physiological Human |
| | 5.4: International Cooperation on Virtual Physiological Human |
| 6. ICT for Mobility, Env'l Sust. & Energy Efficiency | 6.1 ICT for Safety and Energy Efficiency in Mobility |
| | 6.2 ICT for Mobility of the Future |
| | 6.3 ICT for Energy Efficiency |
| | 6.4 ICT for Environmental Services & Climate Change Adaptation |
| | 6.5: Novel ICT solutions for Smart Electricity Distribution Networks |
| 7. ICT for Independent living, Inclusion & Participatory governance | 7.1 ICT and Ageing |
| | 7.2 Accessible and Assistive ICT |
| | 7.3 ICT for Governance and Policy Modelling |

FP7 PRIORITIES: CHALLENGES AND SUB-CHALLENGES (OR "OBJECTIVES") IN THE ICT THEME (2009 WORK PROGRAMME)

The above-mentioned results, mainly coming from a « top-down » approach, have been made known to the European and Southeast Asian ICT organisations on the occasion of the various project activities aiming at developing contacts with them and thus implementing the « bottom-up » part of the approach : awareness workshops and cooperation Forum, contribution to external events, meetings and surveys, open consultation, etc.

The "bottom-up" approach has given quite satisfactory results: the response of European and Southeast Asian ICT communities to the invitation to develop joint projects has been very good and it is estimated (see above) that, end of October 2008, a total of **35 to 50 potential projects, involving European and Southeast Asian organisations and addressing all FP7 challenges, have emerged or strengthened as a result of SEACOOP activities** and should be, for the majority of them, presented to FP7 Calls.

However, few of them can truly be considered as "flagship projects" and this because of the **discrepancy between the timeframe of a support action such as SEACOOP, and the timeframe of the evolution of the cooperation framework and, in particular, of the revision process of the FP7 work programme**. A "flagship project" can indeed develop under FP7 (which is the basic legitimacy of a FP7 support action) only if the Work Programme includes a specific mention on an identified strategic research topic for which cooperation projects between the EU and an another region are awaited.

It's a real flagship project if this mention goes of course beyond a simple FP7 SICA (a small research project addressing cooperation with non-industrialized countries) and it may be even easier to develop if some match-funding mechanism or joint call is implemented by the other country or region. Now, when a support action comes to the conclusion that cooperation on a given challenge (or better on an "objective" or research topics relevant to this challenge), it has quite a limited influence on the evolution of the cooperation framework and on the revision of the Work Programme, which need time to be modified, despite important efforts of the support action to contact the persons in charge of such issues and to convince them...

A BRIEF STORY ON A MISSED OPPORTUNITY...

The SEACOOP project coordinator had quite a long meeting with a Minister in charge of S&T in an ASEAN country who had accepted to participate in a project event and wanted to be briefed on the cooperation opportunities in ICT with the EU. After some time he declared himself pretty well convinced and said "Well, it looks interesting and I should be able to devote some significant budget from my side (in the range of 50-100 millions euro) and this quite quickly. Can you follow?". The SEACOOP project coordinator had to explain that he should report, that it would depend on the possibility to include this in a future version of the Work Programme, that it would take a long time... After a silent moment he said: "Well, I am not sure we can adapt our momentums".

This situation leads to a double recommendation:

- due to this discrepancy, in support actions such as SEACOOP, while working for the long term and identifying priority areas of cooperation, **it is probably wise to put more efforts to support the short term emergence of "bottom-up" cooperation projects** (even if few will be considered as "flagship projects"), i.e. to ensure a higher level of participation of third country organisations in FP7 proposals, with a FP7 Work Programme "as it is",
- since the FP7 programme and its reality will be the ultimate filter of emerging projects, it is important **not to over promote the cooperation potential to avoid frustration and disappointment**: FP7 Calls are very competitive and only high-quality projects with high-profile partners are selected (not mentioning that if the FP7 programme is - generally speaking - open to international cooperation, the effective openness of the programme varies from one objective to another one).

A BRIEF STORY ON A DISAPPOINTED ORGANISATION...

During a meeting in a Southeast Asian country with the head of a well-known laboratory, the SEACOOP project coordinator invited this person to get involved in coming FP7 Calls, saying that the SEACOOP partnership would be ready to support and guide his efforts. He answered: "Oh, I know this FP programme and have even spent last year a lot of efforts to fully understand it and prepare a proposal with European organisations. It took me a lot of resources for quite a limited expected budget. I was confident but learned some months after that the proposal did not pass the evaluation stage. I am not sure I want to be involved in such a process again".

What can be done to improve the current situation ?

Beyond what has been said above, the SEACOOP partnership would like to suggest here some more ideas that might be considered to ensure a stronger development of S&T cooperation in ICT between Europe and Southeast Asia.

These suggestions mainly concern **coordination and synergies issues** :

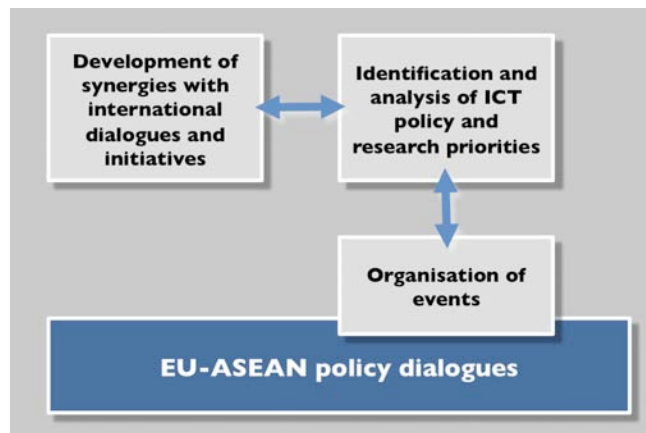
- **at the level of the various European Commission's DGs** involved in the development of cooperation between the two regions (DG Info, DG Research, DG Dev, DG Relex), even if coordination and synergies have been developing quite satisfactorily these last years, they can be usefully further developed. Co-location of events and concertation between programmes and projects have to be promoted, joint activities (such as the publication of a consolidated document addressing the different tools and funding mechanisms Southeast Asian organisations can use to develop cooperation with European organisations) have to be encouraged, etc.
- **at the level of the DG Info's Units and of ETPs**, solutions have to be found to more easily inform them of identified opportunities. Why not envisioning an annual event organised under the aegis of the International relations Unit which will not

only serve to ensure an efficient coordination between support actions addressing different regions in the world, but to which Units and ETPS would be invited to get, over a short period of time, a comprehensive information on the work done by the various support actions (and the development of Information Society dialogues)?,

- **at the level of EU and ASEAN Member States**, efforts should be continued, despite well-known difficulties to develop synergies of their programmes and initiatives with the ones developed under the aegis of the European Commission and of ASEAN.

To conclude, the SEACOOP partnership would like to praise the way the European Commission today envisions the best contribution that support actions can bring to the development of international cooperation (as far as the identification and analysis of ICT policy and research priorities are concerned), which is in line with their experience gained in the project. This view can be derived from the priorities listed in the 2009 version of the FP7 Work Programme for the ICT Theme and is illustrated below. It recommends to organise events on the occasion of policy dialogues meetings, and to ensure close synergies with international dialogues and initiatives.

To be noted : support to « bottom-up projects», considered as (still) important by the SEACOOP partnership in the context introduced above, is not considered in this scheme.



ACTIVITIES OF SUPPORT ACTIONS ADDRESSING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION : THE VISION OF THE FP7 ICT WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2009 (SEACOOP DOCUMENT)