



Visit to the ASEAN secretariat in Jakarta. Photo: MN

“Higher education is the tool to help us understand each other, to know each other better”, insisted Rohadian. As a region with diverse member states concerning cultures, development levels and education structures, ASEAN realises the need to facilitate mutual understanding and a common identity. He further emphasised student mobility and bilateral recognition of certain degrees as the current strategy for this matter. With these programmes, not only academic achievements, but

also intercultural experiences that benefit the development of a country are expected.

“Of course, it is not an easy task due to differences in education and evaluation systems, as well as in standard and quality”, Rohadian said. Harmonisation in qualification and quality improvement, therefore, are the main focus of ASEAN for higher education at the moment according to him. With the support of European Union and its experience in this field, ASEAN region is working towards the aim of an integrated education system across member states.



exploreASEAN's delegation during the presentation at the ASEAN Secretariat. Photo: MN

“After all, this is the centre of our project, of what we are doing”, Timo Daetwyler, exploreASEAN's project manager expressed his excitement after the presentation at the ASEAN Secretariat. The visit was truly appreciated and was a valuable learning opportunity for all the delegation. ● MN

Input from Prof. Dr. Mathias Binswanger

© Travelling to Southeast Asia with the exploreASEAN delegation of students was tough some-times. In 17 days we visited 3 countries, 10 companies, 5 universities, participated in a variety of cultural events and also engaged in sightseeing activities. But the efforts were highly rewarded. For example, visiting a garment factory, where thousands of Vietnamese workers produce sportswear for companies such as Adidas or Nike provided new insights into the process of globalization and its consequences. The organizing team of exploreASEAN did a wonderful job to make this trip a memorable experience to all participants including the professors!

Prof. Dr. Mathias Binswanger. Photo: MN

