



Opening address

*by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Piniti Ratananukul
AUN Executive Director*

Professor Dato' Dzulkifli Abdul Razak, Vice Chancellor,
Universiti Sains Malaysia

Datin Masrah Haji Abidin, Acting Chief Librarian,
Universiti Sains Malaysia

Distinguished Participants,
Ladies and Gentleman

Selamat Pagi, Good Morning, my first Bahasa Melayu that I just learned from a staff this morning. It is a great pleasure for me to be here in the beautiful island of Malaysia. This is my first opportunity to meet you all. At the 1st AUNILO Working Committee Meeting in April last year, we agree that the committee shall meet at least once a year to plan, prepare and assess activities. Thus, today is our good time, since this is already end of November 2005 which more than a year since you had met each other in Singapore.

Before I move on, I would like to recall you on what we have done and have been successful so far.

First, as an immediate step, the AUN homepage had been developed with hyperlinks to the homepages of Member Universities at the website www.aun.chula.ac.th. and just recently, we have again designed and developed the AUN website for the most updated information and easy access. I am pleased to invite you to visit our website and welcome you to share activities and update each other through this channel. Besides, at the AUNILO Conference in Manila in 2002, we shared what we have in our member libraries including IT infrastructure, digital academic resources and services, as well as copyright and licenses.

Second, the AUNILO Secretariat had already been formed by Universiti Sains Malaysia Library. This was agreed at the First Meeting in Singapore. The Secretariat has been operating during 2004-2008 in order to coordinate the collaborative activities among member libraries. I, on behalf of the AUN, would like to take this occasion to express my profound thanks to Universiti Sains Malaysia Library and all their staff for the commitment to be AUNILO Secretariat.

Third, the AUNILO portal was also set up by Universiti Malaya Library, I am sure that you all had already visited this website. Also thanks to the Universiti Malaya Library.

What is the next step from today? I would like to say that from now we have to move gradually, little by little toward ultimate goal that we, the AUN, intends to develop our network into a virtual university through a number of supporting activities such as online courseware ASEAN Studies Programme and AUN Inter-Library Online, and pilot programme for establishing an ASEAN University.

According to the theme "Library Service Quality Assurance", I consider QA as one of the ways that can make us to reach our goals. In the view of the increasing importance of quality assurance in higher education and in many organizations, terms such as standards, recognition, and fitness for purpose or quality are becoming the key words. There is a growing consensus in

higher education institutions in our region that quality assurance is of real importance, relevance and value.

Considering QA as an important priority, the AUN thus initiated the AUN-QA project in 1998 as pioneering regional QA movement in order to improve educational quality of AUN member universities. I would like to emphasise that the effort toward the AUN-QA builds on the recognition and respect of the differences among our members and moves towards harmonisation of educational standard. Here I am pleased to inform you that through a series of AUN-QA workshops during 2001-2004, we had successfully produced the AUN-QA Guidelines as a published manual and reference for the distinct and unique QA movement in ASEAN. To put the Guidelines into practice, we will be organising the QA training workshop in December this year to train the Chief Quality Officers of AUN to perform self-assessment and audit.

Today, I am also grateful that we have the two distinguished resource persons with us, Associate Professor Dr. Zainal Ariffin Ahmad from school of Management, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Dr. Alex Byrne from University of Technology, Sydney. Their knowledge and experience, I believe, can be the invaluable food of thought for our discussion and sharing for later today and tomorrow. There are still many to do and many lessons to be learned. Many challenges to meet and probably difficulties to unravel.

Before we will proceed to another session this morning, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks and sincere appreciation to Universiti Sains Malaysia for kindly hosting this Meeting and for their superb arrangement prior and during the event. My sincere thanks also go all USM staff and, the ones that I can not forget to say thank you are all of you who have traveled from far away to attend our meeting.

I think it is already time that we shall start working now and I wish the meeting will yield great outcome.

Terima kasih, thank you.