

**Minutes of the Meeting with  
Mr. Thomas Nielsen, International Advisor  
Aarhus University, Denmark  
1 December 2014**

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**Date:** Monday 1 December 2014

**Venue:** Meeting room 531, 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Office of the President

- 09.30 – 11.00 am - Meet with Director of International Relations Division and the representatives from faculties concerned  
- Discussion
- 11.00 – 11.30 am - Campus tour

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**Aarhus University**

1. Mr. Thomas Nielsen, International Advisor

**Mahidol University**

2. Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn, Director of International Relations Division
3. Asst. Prof. Kittisak Yokthongwattana, Assistant Dean for Graduate Education, Faculty of Science
4. Asst. Prof. Pakaratee Chaiyawat, Deputy Dean for Academic and Foreign Affairs, Faculty of Physical Therapy
5. Asst. Prof. Jarugool Tretriluxana, Deputy Dean for Research and Postgraduate Studies, Faculty of Physical Therapy
6. Asst. Prof. Kwanjai Amnatsatsue, Deputy Dean for International Affairs and Public Relations, Faculty of Public Health
7. Dr. Boonsit Yimwadsana, Deputy Dean for Organizational Communications, Faculty of Information and Communication Technology
8. Ms. Anchisa Kanjanarujivut, International Affairs Officer, Mahidol University International College
9. Ms. Saruta Chintanet, International Relations Officer, Faculty of Information and Communication Technology
10. Ms. Nawaporn Saengdaeng, International Relations Officer, Faculty of Engineering
11. Mr. Steven Edward, International Relations Officer, Faculty of Public Health
12. Mr. Paul Bulcock, International Relations Expert

## Presentations

The meeting started with introductions and a presentation about Mahidol University by Ms. Wanpimon Senapadpakorn, Director of International Relations Division. This included details of the university's history, development and research and international focus. Following the presentation, Mr. Thomas Nielsen, International Advisor, AAHRUS delivered his presentation (which is summarized below).

### Summary of AARHUS University

AARHUS is the largest university in Denmark, and like Mahidol University its origins lie in medicine and is research-focussed. Today, it has four main academic areas (and 26 departments - 26):

- **Arts** (Aesthetics and Communication; Culture and Society & Education)
- **Business and Social Science** (Business Administration; Business Communication; Economics and Business; Law; Political Science and Government & Psychology and Behavioural Sciences )
- **Health** (Biomedicine; Clinical Medicine; Public Health; Dentistry & Forensic Medicine )
- **Science and Technology (SciTech)** (Agroecology; Bioscience; Computer Science; Physics and Astronomy; Food Science; Geoscience; Animal Science; Engineering; Chemistry; Mathematics; Environmental Science; Molecular Biology and Genetics; Aarhus University School of Engineering & Interdisciplinary Nanoscience Center)

It is home to over 3,000 international students (many in engineering), and is one of the world's Top 100 universities as well as the *Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies* – where exceptionally talented younger researchers from all over the world can work in a stimulating, international and interdisciplinary environment. As a result, they have the opportunity to pursue own research interests for a period of 2-3 years. The institute has an independent managerial structure with international advisory board and accepts international fellows only and international super junior researchers. There are also 30-40 fellowships available. For more information, please visit <http://aias.au.dk/about-aias/>

Other sites of interest include the study guide at <http://studieguide.au.dk/en/au-in-9-languages/english/>

The university also offered Summer programs (80 courses conducted in July and August) and focussed at the Master's & PhD levels.

*To learn more about AAHRUS and SciTech, please see Annex 1 (below).*

## Discussion

In summary, potential areas of collaboration between AAHRUS and Mahidol University included:

1. *Education and Training*
  - Exchange – Student / PhD / Faculty
  - <http://www.au.dk/en/facultiesdepartmentsetc/otherunits/tilknyt/auff/guestresearch/>
  - Short Courses (e.g. AU Summer University & PhD Courses)
  - <http://www.au.dk/en/summeruniversity/ausummeruniversity/>
2. *Longer term*
  - Full Degree Collaboration / EU Horizon2020 & Erasmus+
3. *Research Collaboration*

### Summary form Mr. Nielsen

- Faculty of Physical Therapy: Contacts for groups working on BIOMECHANICS at Aarhus University as well as Motion Analysis

- International College: Opportunities for exchange at MSc level within Business Studies
- Faculty of Engineering: Internship opportunities
- Faculty of Public Health: Young staff on research visits to research groups at Aarhus Uni
- ICT: Exchange of staff and students - possible AU Summer University

### **Summary of Faculty Representatives Responses and Ideas for Collaboration**

The Faculty of Physical Therapy's representatives requested more information on Physical Therapy related courses and research. In response, Mr. Nielsen informed the meeting that AAHRUS was home to the Faculty of Health (Danish M.Ds and dentists). It also offers PhDs, including those provided by the Department of Physical Science (which works in Sports Science, teacher training and international research in fields such as physiology, biochemistry and health promotion). Mr. Nielsen added that he would forward details of these to the Faculty of Physical Therapy (via the Office of the President).

The Faculty of Science's representative added that the Faculty was interested in re-launching research collaboration with AAHRUS (as previous collaborators were now retired) in common/overlapping areas. Other possibilities included examining the possibility of a double degree program and co-funding research symposia.

Mahidol University International College (MUIC) added that they could look into student exchange at the undergraduate-level. They also offer a couple of Master's in Tourism and Management (but are primarily focused on international undergraduate courses). In response, Mr. Nielsen added that AAHRUS's Faculty of Business and Social Science would be very interested in working with MUIC. Once again, he would forward information via the Office of the President's International Relations Division.

With respect to Mahidol University's Faculty of Engineering, its students are interested in international internships. As a result, representatives asked whether there was any possibility of collaborating with AAHRUS in this area. Mr. Nielsen responded that there was. In fact, the Department of Engineering was very international, and its students were required to conduct an internship as part of their studies. Many of these are with private companies and around one-third are overseas. Once again, he would liaise with the IR Division in sharing details of these with the Faculty of Engineering.

The Faculty of Public Health Mahidol University then explained how it was interested in training and working with the community. It was also interested in collaboration in Master's research and staff training (particularly young staff members). They also have a centre of excellence in environmental health science. In fact, they were very multi-disciplinary; therefore, they could collaborate with at least three of AAHRUS's faculties.

The Faculty of ICT then added that its interests covered many areas (including databases, cloud technology, security, multi-media, graphics, networks and Health IT). They had particularly strong undergraduate programmes. Their students were also very internationally-minded and liked to incorporate a study-abroad experience into their courses. They were also interested in research exchange at the graduate-level.

It was agreed that there were plenty of opportunities to work together. The next step would be the drafting of a university-level Memorandum of Understanding. Mr. Nielsen would forward a draft to the IR Division for their review. The meeting then ended with an exchange of tokens of appreciation, group photographs and a campus tour of the Salaya Campus.

Mr. Nielsen also left a brochure with the International relations containing details and information about AAHRUS, summer courses and the AAHRUS Declaration.

## **Annex 1. More details about AAHRUS and SciTech (The Faculty of Science and Technology)**

The Faculty of Science and Technology was established in 2011 as a merger between:

- Faculty of Science
- Faculty of Agricultural Sciences
- National Environmental Research Institute
- Aarhus School of Engineering

### Key Data

- Staff (full time academic): 1,500
- (+ 1,300 administrative and support staff)
- Students (BSc & MSc): approx 4,500
- PhD Students: approx 900 (approx 35% international)
- Publications: approx 4,000 (approx 35% of AU)
- Annual Budget: 330,000,000 EURO (approx 40% of AU)
- Departments: 13

### Departments

- Department of Animal Science
- Department of Bioscience
- Department of Environmental Science
- Department of Geoscience
- Department of Engineering
- Department of Agroecology
- Department of Food Science
- Department of Molecular Biology and Genetics
- Department of Physics and Astronomy
- Department of Mathematics
- Department of Chemistry
- Department of Computer Science

Interdisciplinary centre:

- iNANO

National centres:

- DCE - National Centre for Environment and Energy
- DCA - National Centre for Agriculture and Food

School:

- Aarhus School of Engineering

The course structure is based on quarters (with a 3 year undergraduate course composed of 12 quarters). Master's courses typically last 2 years and cost 15,000 Euros per year. Another 15,000 Euros are needed for living expenses.

### **Collaboration with Thailand**

Collaboration between Thailand and Denmark date back to 1957 (and continues to this day). In fact, there are several Thai students currently studying at SciTech.

Current collaboration with Thailand includes:

- Reproductive ecology of the Mangrove Palm (*Nypa fruticans*) (Anders Barfod and students )
- Flora of Thailand (Prof Henrik Balslev, Anders Barfod and Finn Borchsenius)
- Marine Biodiversity – Foraminiferen fauna of the Andaman Sea (Tomas Cedhagen w. PMBC - planned)
- Mangroves for the Future (Donald Macintosh and Thomas Nielsen w. TEI, DMCR, GSEI & IUCN) – funding from SIDA for Phase 3.
- Transboundary Diagnostic Analysis of the Indochina Mangrove Ecosystems (Donald Macintosh and Thomas Nielsen)

Collaboration with Mahidol University is primarily in *Toxicology and Environmental Health* and includes:

**Prof Herman Autrup (AU)** collaborating with

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Khuning Mathuros Ruchirawat, Director, Center of Excellence on Environmental Health, Toxicology and Management of Chemical &  
Dr Navasumrit Panida, researcher

Joint Mahidol – AU Publications since 2008: **19**

Biochemistry, Genetics and Molecular Biology (7); Agricultural and Biological Sciences (4); Medicine (3); Environmental Science (2); Multidisciplinary (2); Pharmacology, Toxicology and Pharmaceutics (2); Engineering (1); Immunology and Microbiology (1); Materials Science (1); Physics and Astronomy (1)

Illustrations demonstrating the main collaborators and areas of research are given below:

