

**2nd University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific
Committee Meetings and Board Meeting 2020**

MESSAGE

by

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OIC Deputy Executive Director
Commission on Higher Education**

Greetings to the:

- **UMAP International Secretariat (IS)**
 1. Secretary General, Dr. Etsuko Yaguchi
 2. Deputy Secretary General, Prof. Shingo Ashizawa
 3. Executive Director, Dr. Yuko Kobayakawa

- **Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research and Innovation (MHESI), Thailand**
 1. Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Chairman of UMAP

- **British Columbia Council for International Education**
 1. Randall Martin – next UMAP Is

- Distinguished Members of the Board
- Representatives of various member higher education institutions of UMAP

Good morning!

On behalf of the Philippines and the Commission on Higher Education, it is our honor to be part of a momentous meeting of UMAP-it's first ever virtual Board meeting at a time of the global pandemic that has upended many lives. While COVID19 slowed down, if not impeded, mobility programs, the UMAP Board remained gathered together this morning to pursue the respective mandates of member institutions and ministries for the greater goal of what UMAP stands for- to achieve a better understanding within each of the countries and territories in the Asia Pacific region of the cultural, economic and social systems of the member countries and territories through enhanced cooperation among higher education institutions and increased mobility of university students and staff. Thus, cognizant of this vision, we at UMAP work together for the same aspiration —to help strengthen the internationalization programs of UMAP higher education institutions particularly in terms of student mobility and collaboration.

Allow me to congratulate UMAP Chair Thailand for a successful chairing of the UMAP Board from 2018 -2020. Dr. Sumate's steadfast leadership of UMAP amidst the crisis and trying times allowed UMAP to continue with activities programs despite the pandemic. A rousing congratulations likewise to Toyo University of Japan as the UMAP International Secretariat from 2015-2020. Toyo University led by its Executive Director, Dr. Shingo Ashizawa led the IS with dedication, innovation and agility. UMAP Exchange Online Trial and UMAP COIL, short-term

The Philippines is pleased to accept the position as the new UMAP Chair from 2021-2022. This is our second term as Chair in UMAP way back in 2011. We accept the leadership of UMAP to be at service to all its members and stakeholders at this pivotal time of humankind's history where higher education is tasked to significantly contribute, if not lead, in improving lives and ensuring a better future for everyone.

Rest assured that the Philippines through CHED will actively support and promote the University Mobility in Asia and the Pacific (UMAP) and its vision to provide a platform for forging networks of cooperation and collaboration among and between universities and colleges in the Asia-Pacific region.

Thank you.

