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<h1>PRESS RELEASE</h1> <p>Aug 12, 2025</p>	 한국대학교육협의회 Korean Council for University Education
	http://www.kcue.or.kr

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5-Year Outcomes of KCUE's Higher Education for ASEAN Talents (HEAT) Program

- ▶ 5-Year Results: 56 PhDs Produced from 82 Scholars
- ▶ Securing Core Assets for Korea-ASEAN Cooperation and Strengthening ASEAN Academic Capacity

□ The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE, Chairman Yang O-bong) will hold the 5th HEAT* Networking Event on Aug 13, 2025, at the President Hotel. This event marks the successful completion of the five-year program, sharing achievements and celebrating new doctoral graduates.

* HEAT: Higher Education for ASEAN Talents

□ This event celebrates 20 scholars receiving PhDs in Aug 2025. Approximately 30 attendees, including graduates, current students, officials from six participating universities*, and KCUE staff, will attend. KCUE will award commemorative plaques, and graduates will share their doctoral experiences.

* Kangwon National Univ., Kyung Hee Univ., Korea Univ., Ewha Womans Univ., Jeonbuk National Univ., Chung-Ang Univ.

□ Funded by the ASEAN-Korea Cooperation Fund (AKCF), HEAT supports ASEAN faculty members with master's degrees in

pursuing PhDs at leading Korean universities. The goal is to enhance ASEAN academic capacity and foster "pro-Korea higher education experts" to lead bilateral exchange and sustainable regional development.

□ KCUE successfully implemented this project from March 2020 to Aug 2025. Out of 82 scholars from eight ASEAN nations, 56 have earned doctorates, with 20 graduating this August. Remaining students will continue their research to complete their degrees with ongoing university support.

< HEAT Scholar Achievements >

									(Unit: Persons)
Category	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Vietnam	Indonesia	Cambodia	Thailand	Philippines	Total
Graduated	1	1	2	11	15	1	1	4	36
Expected (Aug 2025)	-	-	5	2	6	-	1	6	20
Completed	1	-	-	9	12	-	4	-	26
Total	2	1	7	22	33	1	6	10	82

□ Chairman Yang O-bong stated, "Let me congratulate all graduates for achieving their doctorates through immense passion despite a foreign environment. KCUE will continue to strengthen ASEAN higher education capacity. We are confident this network will serve as a springboard for new Korea-ASEAN cooperation."

□ Building on these results, KCUE plans to expand higher education exchange with ASEAN and develop practical, sustainable models for international cooperation.

Attachment: HEAT Program Overview (1 copy). EOD.

I. Program Overview

- Background:** Growing strategic importance of ASEAN and the Global South necessitates practical and concrete cooperation projects.
- Objective:** Support ASEAN faculty members with master's degrees in obtaining PhDs in Korea to foster "pro-Korea" educational elites and build a foundation for higher education cooperation.

II. Details

- Period:** Mar 1, 2020 – Aug 31, 2025 (Approx. 67 months)
- Eligibility:** ASEAN faculty members holding a master's degree
- Support:** PhD program tuition (3 years), university grants, living expenses, etc.
- Participating Universities:** Kangwon National Univ., Kyung Hee Univ., Korea Univ., Ewha Womans Univ., Jeonbuk National Univ., Chung-Ang Univ. (6 total)
- Number of Scholars:** 82
- Budget:** USD 8,365,720
- Funding Source:** ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Fund (AKCF)

< Implementation Structure >

Ministry of Education	· Project Oversight International Cooperation Achievement Reporting at Global Meetings
Korean Council for University Education (KCUE)	· Project Planning and Execution · University Selection and Evaluation Budget and Performance Management · Comprehensive Project Management: University councils and program operations
Participating Universities	· Scholar Selection & Management Academic & Student Affairs Project Implementation
ASEAN SOM-ED	· Feasibility Review & Approval Oversight & Performance Reporting
AKMPT (AKCF Secretariat)	· Budget Allocation Fund Management Financial Oversight