



Rising Together: Leadership Skills for the Future of Higher Education in Vietnam and Southeast Asia

November 21st/22nd, 2025

Fortuna Hotel, Hanoi

DAY 1, FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21st: 12:30 – 19:30

The first day focusses on setting the scene, on discussing how the higher education sector in Vietnam and the region is changing and is expected to change in the years to come. What are the policy-guidelines and which implications do these have on the institutions and their governance and management structures?

12:30 REGISTRATION AND WELCOME COFFEE

13:00 **OPENING REMARKS**

Dr. Kai Sicks, *Secretary General, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) (Video-message)*

Ms. Helga Margarete Barth, *German Ambassador to Vietnam*

Dr. Dang Van Huan, *Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam*

13:30 **SETTING THE SCENE**

Why did DAAD choose this year's topic, set-up & a brief tour through the workshop's agenda.

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

13:45 **INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC**

Higher Education and Research on the Rise in Vietnam and beyond

This session introduces current developments in education, science, research, and innovation in Vietnam and across the region. It explores what is happening, why new policy directions are emerging, and what goals are being pursued. What is expected from research and higher education institutions in this evolving context?

Keynote speakers from the Vietnamese government and regional organisations will outline and explain the underlying rationales of recent policies. A moderated follow-up discussion will provide space to contextualise these developments, reflect on their implications, and engage with key themes. Participants will have the opportunity to contribute questions directly to the moderator.

Supported by the



13:45

KEYNOTES

1. **Dr. Dang Van Huan**, *Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam*
2. **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hoang Huu Hanh**, *Deputy Director General, National Digital Transformation Authority, Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam*
3. **Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti**, *Centre Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED)*

14:30

MODERATED DISCUSSION

MODERATION

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

PANELLISTS

Dr. Dang Van Huan, *Deputy Director General, Higher Education Department, Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam*

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Hoang Huu Hanh, *Deputy Director General, National Digital Transformation Authority, Ministry of Science and Technology of Vietnam*

Dr. Choltis Dhirathiti, *Centre Director of Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (SEAMEO RIHED)*

15:00

Break, Group photo & Anniversary Take for 25 Years of DIES (30 minutes)

15:45

THEMATIC COMMENTS

This session provides a framework for university representatives to translate policy-level discussions into institutional action. What are the implications for the four guiding topics (Institutional Development, Internationalisation, Quality Assurance & Capacity Development)? Commentators are invited to focus on a few key theses and to keep their contributions to approximately five minutes. Further details and in-depth reflections can then be explored during the subsequent working group sessions, which they will also moderate as hosts.

COMMENTATORS

- INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Ha Thuc Vien, *Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, Campus Infrastructure and Services cum Dean of Economics and Management Faculty, Vietnamese German University & IDC-Alumnus*

- INTERNATIONALISATION

Dr. Nguyen Thi Huyen, *Member of Advisory Board at Center for Educational Accreditation, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City (CEA-VNUHCM), Former Director at Center for Educational Excellence, University of Science, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City & DIES-UNILEAD-Alumna*

- QUALITY ASSURANCE

Dr. Ly Thien Trang, *Vice President, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH) cum Director of Accreditation and Quality Assurance at Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF) & TrainIQ- Alumna*

- CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Trinh Viet Dung, *Campus Director - Southeast Asia, Kühne Logistics University (KLU) & UNILEAD-Alumnus*

16:15

WORKING GROUPS

Three of the workshop's four guiding topics — Institutional Development, Internationalisation, and Quality Assurance — will be explored in the working groups. The fourth topic – Capacity Development – will serve as the central focus of the second day of the workshop.

GROUP 1: INSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

HOST

Dr. Ha Thuc Vien, *Vice President for Academic Affairs, Research, Campus Infrastructure and Services cum Dean of Economics and Management Faculty, Vietnamese German University & IDC- Alumna*

GROUP 2: INTERNATIONALISATION

HOSTS

Dr. Nguyen Thi Huyen, *Member of Advisory Board at Center for Educational Accreditation, Vietnam National University -Ho Chi Minh City (CEA-VNUHCM), Former Director at Center for Educational Excellence, University of Science, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City & DIES-UNILEAD-Alumna*

Dr. Soubin Sisavath, *Deputy Head of International Mobility, International Relations Office, National University of Laos (NUOL) & DIES-MOI-Alumnus*

GROUP 3: QUALITY ASSURANCE

HOST

Dr. Ly Thien Trang, *Vice President, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology (HUTECH) cum Director of Accreditation and Quality Assurance at Ho Chi Minh City University of Economics and Finance (UEF) & DIES-TrainIQ- Alumna*

17:45

RETURN TO PLENARY & WRAP UP OF FIRST DAY

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

18:00

DINNER



DAY 2, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22nd: 09:00 – 14:30

The second day builds on the insights and discussions of the first day, exploring how universities in Vietnam and across the region can respond to the challenges they face. The sessions on this day will showcase and examine good practice examples that have already been established at universities in Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, and Myanmar.

09:00

WELCOME & REVIEW OF THE FIRST DAY

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

09:10

PRESENTATION OF RESULTS OF WORKING GROUPS

Hosts of Working Groups

09:30

POSTER PRESENTATION

A journey through Vietnam and the region: How are higher education institutions already tackling challenges in (capacity development for) higher education management

This session features a poster exhibition presented both through short pitch presentations and an interactive walk-along, providing ample space and time for open exchange and networking. The posters highlight challenges in higher education management—ideally within one of the thematic areas discussed on Day 1—showcasing how universities have addressed these challenges and how they have strengthened staff capacities to meet them effectively.

(No separate coffee break is scheduled; coffee will be served during the poster walk-along.)

MODERATION

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

09:30

Round 1:

Up to five Universities:

- Poster-Pitches 2 min. each in plenary
- Walk-along of the posters, individual Q&A, free exchange, networking. Coffee, tea & cold drinks are available

10:00

Round 2:

Up to five Universities

10:30

Round 3:

Up to five Universities

Supported by the



11:00

CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT IN HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGEMENT

What skills are needed within higher education institutions to effectively and successfully deal with the challenges discussed so far? How can universities establish useful capacity development measures and structures? What role could international partners such as the DAAD play in this?

MODERATION

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

11:00

GOOD PRACTICE EXAMPLES: DIES-NATIONAL MULTIPLICATION TRAININGS

Examples of the current DIES-NMT-trainings with two successful Vietnamese trainings:

1. **Leadership Journey - From Vision to Action: Innovative Artificial Intelligence in Quality Assurance Management for Higher Education in Vietnam (InnoAIQA-VN) Project**

Dr. Nguyen Thi Huyen, Member of Advisory Board at Center for Educational Accreditation, Vietnam National University -Ho Chi Minh City (CEA-VNUHCM), Former Director at Center for Educational Excellence, University of Science, Vietnam National University - Ho Chi Minh City & DIES-UNILEAD-Alumna

2. **Internationalization of Higher Education Institutions in Vietnam: Strengthening International Partnerships and Collaborations**

Dr. Nguyen Thi Hong Van, Programme Manager, International School of Management and Economics, National Economics University & DIES-Mol-Alumna

11:40

GETTING ACTIVE

Gallery walk on the question what institutions and individuals participating in this workshop could possibly set-up, organise, contribute to the question of capacity development in higher education management. Would it always have to have financial support from external actors (such as with the NMT)? Where else could funding come from? What are DIES-Alumni able and willing to give?

The methodological approach is a gallery walk: four guiding questions are formulated, participants divide up into sub-groups and move from one station (guiding question #1) to the next. Rotation every 10 minutes: every participant is given the opportunity to contribute to each topic.

12:30

EVALUATION & CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Felix Wagenfeld, *Director of the Regional Office Hanoi, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)*

12:45

LUNCH