Can UMAP and its UCTS be trustworthy for the promotion of academic mobility in Asia and Pacific?

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(From April 2020) Executive-Director of the National Information Center for Academic Recognition (of Japanese higher education)
Outlines

1. Can we trust UMAP Credit Transfer System [UCTS]? (the formal agreement among ASEAN+3 nations in 2018)

2. Can we trust UMAP activities? (A UMAP study plan form under a USCO program)

3. What are the issues and future challenges of UMAP and UCTS? (Learning Outcomes and Student workload, Tokyo convention)
Why do we need regionally aligned Credit System?

**For Students**
- Give freedom for students to choose what the best knowledge they want to study
- Enrich global competencies and improve their employability

**For Universities**
- More internationally attractive
- More Student Mobility in the region

**For Nations**
- Can provide various kinds of education
- Mutual understanding for regional peace
- Regional economic development
1. Can we trust UMAP Credit Transfer System [UCTS]? (the formal agreement among ASEAN+3 nations in 2018)
ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Cooperation

Since the process began in 1997, ASEAN Plus Three (APT) cooperation has broadened and deepened. There are 68 mechanisms (1 summit, 15 ministerial, 21 Senior Officials, 1 ASEAN CPR Plus Three, 2 Director-General, 23 technical level meetings and 5 other track meetings) coordinating APT cooperation.

The Ministers of Education agreed the general objective of the APT Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017) to encourage APT countries to expand their efforts in implementing the Plan at the national and bilateral levels to the regional level.
The Ministers approved the APT Guidelines on Student Exchange and Mobility with the aim of promoting the development of higher education in the APT countries through greater promotion of student exchanges and mobility supported by quality assurance mechanisms.

The Ministers stressed the importance of fostering long-term and mutually beneficial educational cooperation and promoting people-to-people exchanges.
1-(3). ASEAN Plus Three (APT)-Education Ministers’ Meeting has officially adopted (November 2018)

“APT Guidelines on Transcripts and Supplemental Documents Academic Records of Exchange Students,” including a “Conversion Table for Credit Transfer Systems” based upon the concept of Asian Academic Credits (AACs)=“UCTS” (November 1, 2018)
1-(4). Regional and national credit transfer systems

- UMAP (Asia and the Pacific)
- Europe
- AUN (ASEAN)
- SEAMEO-RIHED (GMS)
- ACTFA
- ACTS
- USA
- UK (CATS)
- ECTS
- UMAP (Asia and the Pacific)
- UCTS = AACs

Regional and national credit transfer systems
1. A research project (KAKENHI-#24402045) between 2012-2014 has studied the general framework of higher education in 24 Asian nations and regions, namely Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brunei-Darussalam, Cambodia, China, East-Timor, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Laos, Macao, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Singapore, South-Korea, Sri-Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, The Philippines, Vietnam.

2. Objectives: To investigate an overall framework of higher education and identify crucial differences and also similarities among 24 nations and regions in Asia.
A proposed framework of credit system by Hotta;

One AACs (=UCTS) credit point $\equiv$ 38-48 hours of student workload,

*(including 13-16 hours of teaching (academic) hours)*

*Student workload* is the total amount of hours students spend for study, (lectures, but also homework, lab, writing term papers, etc.)
1. AACs (=UCTS) will allow many Asian institutions to transfer most of their credits on a one-to-one basis among themselves.

2. The proposal progresses to an even more developed (possible) conversion table with Asian and other regions.
This chart requires more detailed explanations regarding each indicator. Except ANQAHE’s definition, this chart was adopted as a reference document by the ASEAN®+3 Ministers of Education. (Nov. 1, 2018)
2. Can we trust UMAP activities? (a UMAP study plan form under a UMAP Student Connection Online (USCO) program)
UMAP STUDY PLAN Form (sample)

UMAP CREDIT TRANSFER SCHEME (UCTS) STUDY PLAN (For incoming students)

1. STUDENT'S PERSONAL DATA
   (NOTE: To be completed by the student. The information provided in this form will be treated in confidence by the home and host institutions. Data from the form may be used for UMAP/UCTS statistical purpose, but only in an aggregated and non-identifiable manner)

   Student's Name: AAAAAA BBBB CBBB DDDD EEEE
   Gender: ☐ M/ ☑ F
   Student ID Number: 123456789
   Student's Home Address:
   Student email: 
   Home Institution: UMAP home University
   Home Country: (e.g.) Japan
   Univ. Year: ☐ 1/ ☑ 2/ ☐ 3/ ☐ 4
   DEGREE: ☐ B / ☑ M/ ☐ D
   Host Institution: UMAP host University
   Host Country: (e.g.) Thailand
   Major: Asian & Pacific Study
   * In the section of DEGREE, B = Bachelor, M=Master's and D=Doctoral Degree

2. BASIC INFORMATION OF HOME & HOST INSTITUTION'S CREDIT TRANSFER WITH UCTS
   Our institution complies with the following definition of UCTS. Thus, we will transfer credit on a one-to-one basis with other institutions which use the UCTS.

   ================================================DEFINITION OF UCTS===============================================
   One (1) UCTS = 38-48 hours of student workload. This includes 13-16 academic hours of instruction.
   ================================================

3. DETAILS OF THE PROPOSED UMAP STUDY PLAN FOR ONE SEMESTER (☐ Spring / ☐ Fall / ☐ Other term [ ] In Year [ ] )
   ● To be completed and signed by the student and counter-signed by the academic advisor/staff members of both institutions

BACK
## 2-(2). UMAP Study Plan Form (cont.) (sample)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course #</th>
<th>Host Institution</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Host</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<th>Credits</th>
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<td>ddd</td>
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<tr>
<td>300</td>
<td>Seminar in Asian Study</td>
<td>ggg</td>
<td>Seminar in UMAP Study</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**NOTE:** If your study requires the 2nd semester registration at the same time, continue filing in the additional course list behind this sheet.

### 4. CONFIRMATION OF AGREEMENT ON STUDY PLAN BY ALL THREE PARTIES

This form must be signed by student and also counter-signed by the academic advisor/staff members for both institutions' approval.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Home institution's academic advisor/staff member</th>
<th>Host University's academic advisor/staff member</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td>Signature:</td>
<td>Signature:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Title:</td>
<td>Academic Adviser, Professor in Asian Study</td>
<td>Title: Registrar, Office of Academic Affairs</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date:</th>
<th>MONTH / DAY / YEAR</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>MONTH / DAY / YEAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>MONTH / DAY / YEAR</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
3. What are the issues and future challenges of UMAP and UCTS? (Learning Outcomes and Student workload)
3-(1) Future Issues for UMAP and UCTS

There are still a large gap among nations in Asian region in terms of their quality of higher education.

① Lack of capacity to manage institutions
② Lack of regulations and standards
③ Lack of transparency

However, there is a strong demand for more student mobility in the region.
3-(2) Future Challenges for UMAP and UCTS

① Promote UCTS through UMAP activities from 240 to more than 9000 universities in Asian region


③ Join the “UNESCO’s Tokyo Convention” (2018)
Recommended references


## Glossary

1. **UMAP:** University Mobility in Asia and Pacific  
2. **UCTS:** UMAP Credit Transfer System  
3. **USCO:** UMAP Student Connection Online  
4. **ASEAN:** Association of South-East Asian Nations  
5. **APT:** ASEAN Plus Three  
6. **AACs:** Asian Academic Credits  
7. **CATS:** Credit for Accumulation and Transfer Scheme  
8. **ECTS:** European Credit Transfer System  
9. **ACTFA:** Academic Credit Transfer Framework in Asia  
10. **AUN:** ASEAN University Network  
11. **AUN-ACTS:** AUN-ASEAN Credit Transfer System  
12. **CLAR:** Latin American Reference Credit  
13. **ANQAHE:** Arab Network of Quality Assurance in Higher Education
THANK YOU

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