

**Opening Symposium:
In Commemorating the Establishment of Sophia Global Education and
Discovery Co., Ltd. (Sophia GED)**

at The Siam Society, Bangkok, Thailand, on Friday, 12 July 2019

**Organized by
Sophia University**

**In Collaboration with
Sophia GED**

A. Background:

The Sophia ASEAN Hub Center, one of Sophia University's overseas offices, was established in Bangkok upon implementation of the Top Global University Project by MEXT/Japan in 2015 aiming to enhance student/academic mobility and educational and research cooperation. In order to reinforce its role and functions for further development, Sophia University converted Sophia ASEAN Hub Center into Sophia Global Education and Discovery Co., Ltd. (Sophia GED), on 9 April, 2019. Sophia GED's status of a company limited is supposed to give a solid budgetary and legal foundation for the Sophia ASEAN Hub Center, which will primarily design and deliver study tours and service learning programs, in which Japanese students learn alongside peers from ASEAN member countries, and provide support for ASEAN students to study at Sophia and other universities in Japan.

B. Objectives:

The half-day Opening Symposium commemorates the establishment of Sophia GED. It intends to receive congratulatory remarks and a key note lecture featuring the future of higher education as life-long education process in the era of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and beyond. It introduces Sophia GED and discusses opportunities and challenges for universities' overseas offices focusing on Japanese universities which have their offices in Thailand. Sophia GED, in association with Sophia ASEAN Hub Center, wishes to cultivate human resources focused on contributing towards SDGs, while simultaneously paving the way to a more integrated and connected ASEAN community.

C. Expected Outcomes:

The half-day Opening Symposium aims to achieve the following expected outcomes:

1. Participants kept abreast of the status, issues, challenges and opportunities of Japanese universities' overseas offices including Sophia ASEAN Hub Center/Sophia GED in expanding their activities on student/academic mobility, research cooperation, and outreach programmes;

2. The future of higher education as life-long learning process in the era of SDGs and beyond highlighted in the key note lecture; and
3. The role of universities' overseas offices discussed, among others, serving to provide life-long education opportunities encompassing students, youths, and adults.

D. Programme

13:30-14:00 **Registration**

14:00-14:30 **Opening Session**

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Yoshiaki Terumichi
President, Sophia University

Congratulatory Remarks

H.E. Shiro Sadoshima (Message)
Ambassador, Embassy of Japan

Fr. Agustinus Sugiyono Pitoyo
Thai Jesuit Region Superior

14:30-15:00 **Group Photo and Coffee Break**

15:00-15:30 **Key Note Lecture: “Future of Higher Education as Life-Long Learning Process in the Era of SDGs and Beyond”**

Mr. Shigeru Aoyagi
Director, UNESCO Bangkok

15:30-16:00 **Introduction of Sophia GED**

Dr. Yasushi Hirosato
Managing Director, Sophia GED/Professor, Center for Global Education and Discovery, Sophia University

Mr. Hiroka Hayashi
Deputy Director, Office of Management Planning, Sophia University

Mr. Ei Nakayama
Deputy Director, Bureau of General Affairs (Top Global University Project Office), Sophia University

This session introduces the establishment of Sophia GED by explaining its background, rationale, objectives, structure, and programmes. It also poses questions to be addressed at Panel Discussions as to the role and functions of universities' overseas offices.

16:00-16:50

Panel Discussions: What Universities' Overseas Offices Can Do?

Dr. Yasushi Hiroshiro: Moderator/Panelist

Managing Director, Sophia GED/Professor, Center for Global
Education and Discovery, Sophia University

Dr. Taro Sonobe: Panelist

Deputy Director, ASEAN Center/URA for International Affairs, Research
Administration Office, Kyoto University

Dr. Nopraenue Sajjarax Dhirathiti: Panelist

Acting Vice President for International Relations and Corporate
Communication, Mahidol University

Dr. Dy Sam Sideth: Panelist

Deputy Director-General for Education
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia

Mr. Arthapol Vithayakritsirikul: Panelist

Director, Catholic Business Executives Group/Director, Business
Development and Learning Solution, Upper Knowledge Co., Ltd.

Q&A Session

This panel discusses opportunities and challenges for universities' overseas offices focusing on Japanese universities which have their offices in Thailand. Experts who have different background share their views and expectations from various perspectives.

16:50-17:00

Closing Session

Closing Remarks

Fr. Sali Augustine SJ

Trustee for General Affairs, Sophia School Corporation

17:15-19:00

Reception (at The Siam Society)

Registration required:

Please send your name and affiliation, to the following address.

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