

# ALIGN PROJECT

ACCESS AND INCLUSION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES  
HIGHER EDUCATION NETWORK – IN THE ASSOCIATION OF  
SOUTHEAST ASIAN NATIONS (ASEAN)

## PROJECT AIM

This project aimed to develop an interdisciplinary network in the ASEAN region to improve access and inclusion for students with disabilities in higher education. The project was funded by the Academy of Medical Sciences (GCRF Networking Grant) and ran from October 2019 – December 2022 (extended due to COVID19). The project was led by co-partners at Coventry University, UK (Professor Lynn Clouder) and Philippine Normal University, Philippines (Professor Zenida Reyes and Dr Shirley Cerbo). Other project partners included Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris in Malaysia; Christian University of Indonesia; Phu Xuan University in Viet Nam and the Centre for Higher Education Studies at the Viet Nam Institute of Education Sciences.

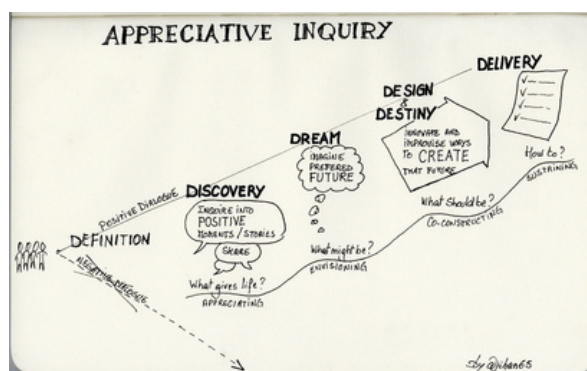


## WHY THIS NETWORK?

Underrepresentation and poor achievement of disabled people in higher education (HE) is a global challenge, including in ASEAN countries, where gaps between achievement of disabled and non-disabled people are greatest (UNESCO, 2018). Discriminatory policies and practices impact on all disabled people, and a current gap in understanding and sharing data on the extent of the challenge highlights the importance of the ALIGN network.

## APPROACH

The network partners initially ran a workshop in Manila, Philippines with a view to undertaking an appreciative inquiry exercise to use a positive change approach. Project partners 'dreamed' the vision of inclusive education, and planned how they would run AI in their own institutions to start to raise awareness, identify who needed to be involved, and identify their need for change for persons with disabilities (a preferred term in the ASEAN region).



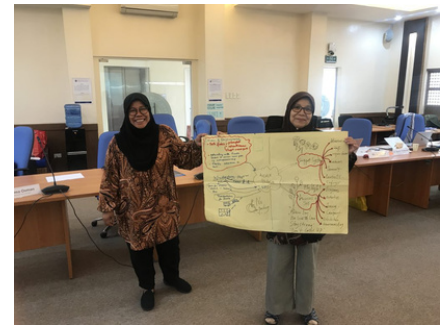
<http://align.coventry.ac.uk/>

The Academy of  
Medical Sciences

GCRF  
Global Challenges Research Fund

# Key milestones and delivery

Appreciative Inquiry (AI) research skills workshop; project kick off - **December 2019**



Lockdown due to COVID-19 - **March 2020**

Revised project plan and deliverables to move online - **August 2020**



Partners ran AI events in their own institutions (online) and presented back to the network - **August 2020 - February 2021**

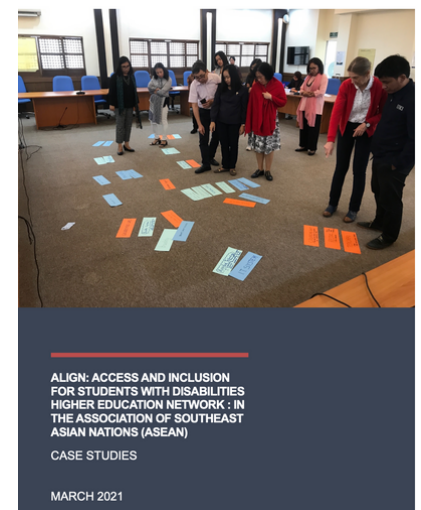


A **cross-disciplinary analysis** of programme learning outcomes on sample programmes to identify those that are accessible and any prohibiting disabilities.

**Invited Speaker:** *Reflections on inclusion and exclusion brought to life through a global pandemic.* Prof Lynn Clouder. 1st International Conference, Innovative Research in Science and Education in the Disruptive Era, Universitas Muhammadiyah Prof. Dr. Hamka (Uhamka), Jakarta, Indonesia. **21st October 2020.**

**Presentation:** *Identifying Success Factors for Inclusive Learning for Disabled Students in the ASEAN region.* Prof Zenaida Reyes, Dr Ied Veda Sitepu, Prof Lynn Clouder and Marie Sams. GLEA Week Showcase 2020. **5 November 2020.**

**Case studies** developed for each institution developed to give an overview of some of the current practice taking place in institutions within the network, that aids our understanding of where the gaps are, and what needs to happen in the future (<https://tinyurl.com/8jk7z6xv>) - **March 2021**



**Invited to present at SEAMO congress (over 15,000 participants):** *Access and Inclusion of Disabled Students in Higher Education in Four ASEAN Countries – A Scoping Study.* Prof Lynn Clouder, Prof Zenaida Reyes, Dr Ied Veda R. Sitepu, Marie Sams. Theme: Transforming Southeast Asian Education, Science and Culture in the Digital Age **28-29 April 2021.**



# Key milestones and delivery

**Symposium event run online:** The webinar discussed the results from appreciative inquiry events across the four country perspectives, and what steps need to be taken in the future to ensure equity for disabled students in higher education. This included 65 delegates from across the ASEAN region. **4 May 2021.**



**Joint article** written for journal submission (waiting on acceptance) *Converting Appreciative Inquiry Online during COVID-19: Disruption as a Catalyst for Rethinking Inclusive Research and Research on Inclusion in Southeast Asia.*  
**September 2021 - March 2022**



**Hybrid celebration event:** The Philippine Normal University, in collaboration with Coventry University, hosted “*Celebrating Inclusivity in the Workplace*” at the ballroom of Hotel Lucky Chinatown in Binondo, Manila (report available on ALIGN website) - **23 July 2022.**

**Celebration event:** Phu Xuan University Viet Nam and the Hope Center ran a session on Public Communication Skills on Social Media for Disabilities (video report available on the align website) - 24 September 2022



**Student involvement** - 15 video resources developed to encourage more students with disabilities to apply to University, with good practice highlighted in each of the institutions, with current students and alumni from each institution represented. **June - November 2022**



**Celebration event** In collaboration with Coventry University, United Kingdom, and Universitas Kristen Indonesia (Christian University of Indonesia) to promote access of people with disabilities to Higher Education and Career Prospects in Indonesia in the Seminar Room, Universitas Kristen Indonesia Cawang Campus - **16 December 2022**



**VIỆN KHOA HỌC GIÁO DỤC VIỆT NAM**  
THE VIETNAM NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATIONAL SCIENCES

