



## Free Flow of Dental Practitioners across ASEAN: From Politics to Dental Education Development

Suchit POOLTHONG  
Former\_ Dean of Chulalongkorn University  
Quality control of dental education in Thailand



The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was formed in 1967 and its members currently comprise 10 countries. This political and economic organization has emphasized regional cooperation and finally formed the ASEAN economic community (AEC) in 2003 with the aim of making ASEAN more dynamic. Consequently, AEC expects to become a competitive economic community by initiating a single market. The single market comprises five core elements; the free flow of goods, services, investment, capital and skilled labor. The free flow of qualified dental professionals and services across the ASEAN region therefore are one of the missions as the

single market is formed.

This presentation will review the development of higher education in ASEAN as a part of a single market in which the free flow of dental services and professionals is facilitated from the past to present. The ASEAN Joint Coordination Committee for Dental Practitioners (AJCCD) that is responsible for this task has appointed a group named the Technical Working Group – ASEAN Dental Education (TWG-ADE) to prepare a roadmap for the free flow of dental practitioners. The roadmap will be described in detail and the efforts that have been made as well as obstacles will be discussed.