

## **Worlddidac 2008**

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with Thai-based Reed Tradex co-organized "Vietnam International Exhibition for Educational Materials and Professional Training – Worlddidac Vietnam 2008" from 3-5 December 2008 in Hanoi. This Worlddidac exhibition gains its worldwide reputation through its professional activities and networking, and this event was for the first time held in Vietnam. There were more than 120 educational material and equipment manufacturers from 20 countries worldwide having their products displayed at the exhibition. This was an excellent opportunity for administrators, educators, teachers, students and the public at large around the world to meet and share expertise and experience and learn more about state-of-the-art educational materials, equipment and technology. Together with the exhibition, a conference named "Vietnam Education Leaders Forum" (VELF) was also organized, and distinguished speakers shared their viewpoints and concerns on the major issues affecting our education.



## **The Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for English Language Education**

Dr. Do Huy Thinh and Mr. Than Trong Minh joined a few senior MOET officers and key university administrators at a roundtable discussion on “the Common European Framework of Reference (CEFR) for Language Education” held in Hanoi on December 9, 2008, at the invitation of the British Council in Vietnam and Cambridge ESOL. The roundtable emphasized the need to raise awareness of CEFR in Vietnam, and a more

urgent task to develop for all levels of education in Vietnam a new national English language testing system.



## **Educational Leadership and Management Courses (the Belgian Project)**

Like in the previous year, in 2008, SEAMEO RETRAC, with the sponsorship of Belgian Technical Cooperation (BTC), conducted two training courses on educational management named “Excellence for Leaders of Vietnamese High Schools”. These two 10-day courses took place at SEAMEO RETRAC in October, designed for 60 high school principals, especially for those who are female administrators and come from underprivileged areas across Vietnam. Topics discussed include strategic planning, instructional leadership, leadership styles, and areas of school management such as human resource development, assessment and testing, public relations, and the ICT application. The training courses also served as a bridge to bring people together and expand networking among schools in Vietnam. Positive feedback from these participants affirms that there should be more advanced training for them in the future.



## **The Communicative English Course for Police Officers of District 1**

A Communicative English Course for the police officers of District 1 in Ho Chi Minh City was successfully completed on October 14, 2008. This three-month-long course aimed at preparing for the learners the skills and strategies in using the language at the workplace and in everyday conversation. On completion of the course, the participants were granted a Certificate of Completion, showing the progress made and the confidence gained when using the language.



**The TOEFL iBT Preparation Course for the Instructors of College of Finance and Customs**



The opening ceremony for the TOEFL iBT preparation course, jointly conducted by SEAMEO RETRAC and College of Finance and Customs, was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup>. This intensive course aims at providing the college's instructors with not only the

academic language skills but also the TOEFL iBT test-taking strategies essential for iBT test-takers. The course is also a preparation for the English language proficiency for the college's senior instructors who wish to undertake a Ph.D program abroad..

### **The National Teachers' Day**

Celebrated as an annual event, a formal appreciation ceremony for teachers was held this year on November 18<sup>th</sup> at SEAMEO RETRAC International Hall on the occasion of the National Teachers' Day. More than 80 teachers attended to the ceremony. Dr. Do Huy Think cordially welcomed all the guests and expressed the gratitude to the teachers whose professional teaching performance, initiatives and commitment have assisted SEAMEO RETRAC in realizing its vision of becoming an excellent training center in Vietnam and the region.



### **SEAMEO RETRAC 5<sup>th</sup> Academic Board Meeting**

An Academic Board Meeting for English language education was held from December 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> in Nha Trang to evaluate the activities of the SEAMEO RETRAC Language School during the past six months of 2008 and work out an action plan for 2009. This periodic meeting is held twice every year in June and December as an opportunity for the SEAMEO RETRAC Management Board to meet with the academic staff and teachers, and discuss issues related to academic activities at SEAMEO RETRAC.

### **Professional Development Workshop**

In order to provide our faculty with new, effective teaching methods, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a workshop on “Teaching Strategies for Effective Learning” on October 7, 2008, presented by Dr. Thomas Oldenski from the University of Dayton, USA.

### **Interpretation & Translation Training Course**

A 20-hour training course on “Interpretation & Translation” is being organized for SEAMEO RETRAC professional staff. The course aims to provide the learners with basic concepts of skills, techniques, and strategies in consecutive/liaison interpreting as well as to help them enhance their English language competence and the quality of their English output. The course is facilitated by Mr. Nguyen Vu Tu, Deputy Director, Department of Foreign Affairs, in Ho Chi Minh City.

### **Partnership with Asian Institute of Technology (AIT) and AIT Center in Vietnam (AITCV)**

As a member of the AIT Executive Committee and the AITCV Board of Advisors, Dr. Do Huy Think attended the two meetings on November 5 and December 10 respectively to discuss the activities and services as well as the future development of the institutions. AITCV, a branch of AIT, has been very active since 1993, and has gained reputation in providing quality programs and services in Vietnam.

### **Visits to SEAMEO RETRAC in 2008 by**

- Ms. Claudette Croteau, English Language Training Program, January 9
- Prof. Dr. Milton A. Gordon, President, and Delegation, California State University – Fullerton, USA, January 14
- Ms. Martha Casson, Niagara College, Canada, January 14
- Dr. Leslie Opp-Beckman, University of Oregon, USA, January 16
- Mr. Jason Bernstein, Lake Washington Technical College, USA, January 17
- Ms. Jo Man, EF, Hong Kong, February 21
- Ms. Miel Hendricson, Institute of Management and Development, USA, January 28
- Prof. Dr. Joyce L. Mac Kinnon, Indiana University, USA, February 8
- Ms. Britta Baron, and Mr. Kenya Kondo, University of Alberta, Canada, February 24
- Ms. Callie Chen, TMC Education Group, Singapore, March 3
- Mr. Michael Aylward, and Dr. Michael J. Hatton, CIDA, Canada, March 6
- Ms. Tracey Tee, Methodist St. Francis School, Singapore, March 10
- Mr. Chainarong Limpkittisin, and Mr. Suttisak Wilanan, Reed Tradex Company, Thailand, March 11
- Ms. Madina Cavendish, South Puget Sound Community College, USA, March 12
- Dr. Sato Mariko, University of Tsukuba, Japan, March 12
- Prof. Dr. Ian Frank, University of Future Hakodate, Japan, March 13
- Dr. Duncan Rayner, Cambridge ESOL, England, March 17
- Dr. Richard Gilbert, University of Phoenix, USA, March 23-31
- Prof. Dr. Dennis Berg, California State University, USA, March 23-31
- Dr. Ahmad Rizal Selamat, Multimedia University, Malaysia, March 23-31
- Mr. Walter Ong, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, March 27
- Ms. Amy, Hong Kong International Primary School, March 28
- Ms. Angelina Duong, Cambridge Institute, Singapore, March 28
- Mr. Timothy R. Watts, Baptist Dallas University, USA, April 4
- Prof. Dr. David Sawcer, University of Southern California, USA, April 16
- Ms. Nancy Van Note Chism, University of Indiana, USA, April 16

- Mr. Collin Glass, and Mr. Chris Bond, USA, April 18
- Prof. Dr. Scott Davidson, University of Canterbury, New Zealand, April 29
- Mr. Karl Mutch, Auckland University, New Zealand, May 2
- Prof. Dr. Phillip L. Watson, Ferris State University, USA, May 5
- Prof. Dr. Lee Sing Kong, National Institute of Education, Singapore, May 10
- Assoc. Prof. Douglas Grier, Grier School, USA, May 12
- Prof. Dr. Wong Lian Aik, National University of Singapore, Singapore, May 28
- Prof. Dr. Pearl Sims, University of Vanderbilt, USA, May 30
- Mrs. Tay Sor Har, RELC, Singapore, June 17 and August 24
- Dr. David Yang, and Dr. William Chismar, Shidler College of Business, Hawaii University, USA, June 18
- Prof. Dr. Alister Jone, Dr. Marcia Johnson, and Dr. Ed Weymes, University of Waikato, New Zealand, June 22
- Mr. Jacobi, Immunual College, Australia, July 1
- Mr. Yenbo Wu, San Francisco State University, USA, July 10
- Dr. Terrance Bigalke, East West Center, USA, July 17
- Dr. Jack Frawley, Australian Catholic University, Australia, July 18
- Mr. Billy Chow, San Francisco City College, USA, July 19
- Mr. Glen Ong, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, July 21
- Dr. Scott A. Hipsher, El Camino College, USA, July 30
- Ms. Michele Doray, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, July 31
- Ms. Joyce Lim, USA, August 1
- Prof. Dr. David Wood, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Delegation, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, August 24
- Prof. Dr. Jerry Nelson, Missouri University, USA, August 25
- Dr. Karen Gallagher, Dean, and Delegation from University of Southern California Rossier School of Education, USA, September 3
- Ms. Bonzena Morton, El Camino College, USA, September 8
- Mr. Mangasa Aritonang, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Indonesia, September 10
- Mr. Joe Weaver, University of Hawaii, USA, September 12

- Mr. Rudy Sabas, Association of Canadian Community Colleges, Canada, September 18
- Ms. Vicky Seedfeldt West, Ohio University, USA, October
- Ms. Patricia E. Biddinger, University of Indiana – Purdue, USA, October 6
- Mr. Michael Paris, Cambridge Group, England, October 9
- Dr. Sabine C Klahr, and Ms. Chalimar Swain, Boise State University, USA, October 17
- Ms. Michelle, CMA, Singapore, October 20
- Mr. David Nguyen, Purdue University, USA, October 22
- Ms. Linda Chao, Humber Institute, Canada, November 4
- Mr. Justin Spence, British Council, Vietnam, November 5
- Mr. Drew Taylor, ESL, USA, November 14
- Dr. Emery Dosedall, Deputy Minister of Education, and Delegation, British Columbia, Canada, November 19
- Ms. Jamie Choo, Curtin University of Technology, Australia, November 21
- Dr. Ruben Umaly, Asian Pacific University Association, the Philippines, November 24
- Mr. Garath Mouncey, Kingston International College, Australia, November 25
- Ms. Danielle Scott, Alberta University, Canada, November 27

### **Upcoming events**

- Higher Education in Vietnam: American - Vietnamese Partnerships, Vietnam, January 15 -16
- HOM, Thailand, January 19 – 21.
- Thai TESOL Conference, Thailand, January 24 – 26
- English Course for MOET Officials, Vietnam, February - March
- Cam TESOL Conference, Cambodia, February 21 – 22
- Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Vietnam, March
- 44th SEAMEO Council Conference, Thailand, March 8 – 12
- The 4<sup>th</sup> World Teachers’ Day in Thailand and 12th UNESCO-APEID International Conference, Thailand, March 24-26

- The international TESOL Convention in Denver, USA, March 26 -28