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### Upcoming Events

## SEAMEO RETRAC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony



September 22, 2016 witnessed the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony of SEAMEO RETRAC at the Center's premises. This anniversary was celebrated in coincidence with the Center's 19<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting and the Educational Forum on "Educational Innovation for an ASEAN Integration" which were implemented on September 22-23, 2016.

The SEAMEO RETRAC 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony was privileged to have the presence of H.E. Prof. Dr. Phung Xuan Nha, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; H.E. Dr. Kongsy Sengmany, Deputy Minister; Mr. Phouvanh Vongsouthi, Deputy Director General, Department of External Relations, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR; H.E. Yuok Ngoy, Secretary of State, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Kingdom of Cambodia; Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela, Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat; Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Former Director, SEAMEO Secretariat; Dr. Nguyen Xuan Vang, Director General, International Cooperation Department, Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training; other distinguished guests from other SEAMEO sister Centers (SEAMEO INNOTECH and SEAMEO RELC), foreign partner institutions, representatives of diplomatic missions based in Ho Chi Minh City, local partners, the media and SEAMEO RETRAC teachers and staff.



The Ceremony commenced with the welcome speech by Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, which was followed by a summary of the activities over the past twenty years. Next were the remarks made by Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela, Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat and H.E. Prof. Dr. Phung Xuan Nha, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam to

mark the contributions of the Center for the human resource development in Vietnam and the region.

## SEAMEO RETRAC 19<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting



SEAMEO RETRAC 19<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting was convened from September 22-23, 2016 at the Center. The Meeting was held back to back with the Educational Forum, namely “Education Innovation for an ASEAN Integration”.

Attending the Meeting were Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, former Director, SEAMEO Secretariat; Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela, Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat; Governing Board Members and representatives coming from Southeast Asian countries, and observers. In her opening remarks, Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela congratulated on the Center’s achievements for the past FY 2015-2016, and encouraged its continued strong linkages with institutions and organizations galore within and outside the region. At the Meeting, Dr. Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela

presented a brief report on the agreements and actions taken from SEAMEO Meetings for FY 2015-2016. Also, the Board approved the Center’s annual report for FY 2015-2016 and the action plan for FY 2016-2017 which were presented by Dr. Do Thi Hoai Thu, Dean, Division of Education, and the financial report for FY 2015–2016 by Mr. Nguyen Tan Hung, Head of Planning and Finance Department. The Board Members unanimously approved the Center’s annual report and financial report. The Meeting ended with the endorsement of the proceedings. This year’s Meeting also included the visit to Le Quy Don High School in Ho Chi Minh City on the afternoon of September 22. This was a great chance for the Governing Board Members, representatives and observers to understand more about basic education in Ho Chi Minh City. After the Meeting, the Board Members joined a retreat to the Mekong Delta on September 24, 2016.

## Forum on Educational Innovation for an ASEAN Integration



SEAMEO RETRAC successfully conducted the Educational Forum, namely “Educational Innovation for the ASEAN Integration” on September 23, 2016, at its premises in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

The Forum was held back to back with the Center’s 19<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting and served as a platform for the exchange and discussion of ideas and experiences in relation to ASEAN Integration in Education, Educational Innovation and Strategies, Teacher Education and Preparation. Presenting at the Forum were SEAMEO RETRAC’s Governing Board Members from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, Vietnam, and SEAMEO Secretariat.

Participants included more than 40 administrators, educators, academic staff and lecturers from universities, colleges and high schools in Ho Chi Minh City and surrounding provinces. The participants took this opportunity for sharing their viewpoints and experiences in education for ASEAN integration.

## Kick-off Seminar on Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology



From September 06-09, 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with Portland State University, and Arizona State University, USA under the sponsorship of USAid conducted a kick-off seminar for 35 university leaders and administrators in Vietnam focusing on building university-industry learning and development through innovation and technology.

During the four days of training, participants familiarized themselves with such topics as: Leading University Policy Innovation, Leading from Policy Identification to Policy Formulation, Smart Leadership for Policy Realization, and Leading Coalitions for Policy Innovation. In addition, they had the opportunity to explore issues, policies, challenges,



cases in-depth as well as to share experiences and best practices relating to developing university and industry partnership.

After successfully conducting the kick-off seminar, SEAMEO RETRAC is planning on organizing a series of training workshops in developing university – industry partnership, higher education leadership and management for Vietnam university leaders and administrators in 2017.

## International Cooperation Development with Institutions in Canada and the United States

On October 10-23, 2016, Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Center Director headed the delegation of SEAMEO RETRAC senior staff to pay a visit to a number of universities in Canada and the United States. This visit helped the Center pave the way for the collaboration with Canadian and American institutions in performing future activities.



## English Speaking Contest for High School Students in Ho Chi Minh City

SEAMEO RETRAC successfully hosted “The English Speaking Contest for High School Students in Ho Chi Minh City” at the Center’s premises. The contest consisted of three rounds from October 6 to November 10, 2016 with the attendance of dozens of students from typical high schools in Ho Chi Minh City. The team from Le Hong Phong High School for the Gifted was the champion of the contest. This significant event was among the series of activities to mark the Center’s progress in the period 1996-2016, aiming to serve the community.



## Celebrating the Vietnamese Teachers’ Day

On November 18, 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC celebrated the Vietnamese Teachers’ Day at the Center in order to express its gratitude and appreciation to all the teachers and staff who have been working for the development of the Center over the years.

At the ceremony, on the occasion of its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment and development, the Center’s Director presented Certificates of Appreciation to the four teachers to highly treasure their continued contribution with excellent performance since the early years of SEAMEO RETRAC. The Director also granted the SEAMEO RETRAC Teaching Award to other six teachers who have shown excellent performance in the year 2016. Besides, some musical performances contributed by the faculty and students made the celebration a cozy, memorable and meaningful one.



## MOU Signing Ceremonies

During the fourth quarter of 2016, five Memoranda of Understanding were respectively signed with British Columbia Council for International Education, Portland State University, Hawaii University at Manoa, Niagara College and National Geographic Learning- Cengage Learning. The MOUs will pave the way for collaborative training and research activities, scholarly exchange, internship programs, collaboration in conducting conferences/ seminars/ forums/ workshops and so forth.



## Administrating Tests of English Proficiency for English Language Teachers

During the fourth quarter of 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC administered tests of English proficiency for nearly 430 English language teachers in Binh Duong province and at SEAMEO RETRAC. The teachers' four language skills including listening, reading, writing and speaking were assessed in accordance with the criteria for the nation's required proficiency levels.

## The Visits of the Delegations from Foreign Institutions

During the fourth quarter of 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC had a chance to welcome delegations from McGill University, Royal Roads University, University of the Philippines, University of Hawaii at Manoa and Portland State University. The primary purpose of their visits was to explore the Center activities and pave possible ways for collaboration.



## Upcoming Events

- Sharing Session on Effective Techniques for Tackling Learners' Pronunciation Problems, January 16, 2017
- DFS Faculty Meeting, January 18, 2017
- Orientation Session for New Teachers, February 13, 2017
- In-country Training Workshop in Educational Leadership and Management in Lao PDR., February 21-24, 2017
- A Series of Training Courses on Innovative English Language Teaching for ELT Lecturers from Universities and Colleges, February, 21-25, 2017
- Summer Fun Overseas Study Seminar, February 23, 2017
- Canadian Education Fair, March 19, 2017
- Canadian Overseas Study Seminar, March 20, 2017
- Meeting with Teachers of EIC Program, March 20, 2017
- Trainer-Training Workshop on Soft Skills Teaching - Module 2, March 21-24, 2017
- Victoria Overseas Study Fair in the Mekong Delta, March 23, 2017
- Training Workshop on ICT Applications in Teaching and Learning, March 30-31, 2017

