

SEAMEO RETRAC

NEWSLETTER VOL. 68 | January - March 2019



ISO 9001:2015



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER
(SEAMEO RETRAC)
ISSN 1729 -1852**

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Training Course on “Effective Communication and Professional Services”

In collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City Open University, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on “Effective Communication and Professional Services” on February 22, 2019 at the University’s campus. The course aimed at updating 35 participants working as supporting staff and officers in charge of student affairs with knowledge and skills on effectively communicating with colleagues, students and parents while equipping them with essential information and guidance to improve their professional services to related stakeholders.



SEAMEO-Tsukuba Symposium VII

At the invitation of the University of Tsukuba, Japan and the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO RETRAC Director, Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Center Director attended the SEAMEO-TSUKUBA International Symposium VII on Feb 10, 2019 at Tokyo Campus, University of Tsukuba, Tokyo, Japan. With the theme “Reform and Development in Teacher Education for the Digital Economy”, the symposium working agenda focused on the school-teacher education reforms for the age of digitalization in 4.0 Industrial society and sought further collaboration beyond the region.

During the Symposium, invited speakers and participants actively shared and discussed the reform movements of SEAMEO Member Countries and Japan under the following scopes:

- Reforms on Teacher Education in relation to Digital Economy
- Harnessing Human Resource Development through Education Science and Culture
- Academic Mobility and Oversea Programs on Internship
- Challenges on 4th Industrial Revolution and Employability of Graduates

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong’s presentation on “Teacher Education and Reforms in Education in Vietnam: Challenges and Solutions” drew lots of attention from the participants and Japanese counterparts.



Workshops on Introducing New Curricula and Textbooks for English Teachers at SEAMEO RETRAC

On March 19 and 21, 2019, Division of Foreign Studies (DFS) organized 2 workshops at the Center’s premise to introduce new textbooks for the IELTS Program and the English for International Communication (EIC) Program respectively. At the workshops the teachers of the two programs had a chance to familiarize themselves with the innovated curricula and the new textbooks. Detailed information related

to the curricula and syllabi, teaching techniques and strategies, and student’s learning assessment was shared and discussed among the teachers. Innovating and updating curricula and textbooks is one of the top priorities of training quality improvement and assurance at SEAMEO RETRAC with the aim to help learners ultimately achieve their goals.

Training Course on “Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Student Assessment and Evaluation”

With the aim of assisting universities and colleges in updating knowledge and equipping essential skills with utilizing available ICT tools in designing appropriate exercises and tasks for assessing and evaluating students’ learning performance and outcomes, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training

course on “ICT Applications in Student Assessment and Evaluation” at the Centre’s premises on January 16-18, 2019. Participants in the course were 20 teaching staff and academic administrators of different higher education institutions across Vietnam.



Training Course on "Soft-skills Training – Module 2"

The periodical training course on "Soft-skills Training – Module 2" held at SEAMEO RETRAC on February 1 – March 1, 2019, with 15 participants including teaching staff, leaders of Student Associations and Youth Associations as well as administrators in charge of student affairs of higher education institutions. Effective presentation, positive and creative thinking, problem solving and decision making, and information selecting and processing skills were the topics discussed at the course.



The English Teaching Methodology Training Workshops for Lecturers of University of Science – Ho Chi Minh City

In collaboration with the University of Science – Ho Chi Minh City, SEAMEO RETRAC co-hosted training workshops on English Teaching Methodology for Lecturers of English on January 05-12, 2019. The workshops aimed at helping lecturers of English improve their teaching ability, update innovative approaches, as well as enhance motivational strategies and communication skills to encourage learners' participation in class.



Closing Ceremony of the two Training Courses on Innovative Approaches in Teaching Content Areas in English for Lecturers of Viet Nam National University – Ho Chi Minh City

The closing ceremony of the training courses on Innovative Approaches in Teaching Content Areas in English for 56 lecturers of Viet Nam National University – HCMC was organized on February 28, 2019.

The courses aimed to help participants not only be updated with the contemporary approaches, techniques, and practices in teaching content areas in English, but also be able to design and create classroom activities to engage

students in active learning, and be aware of available technologies and their creative application in teaching content areas in English.



Training Course on "Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Teaching and Management"

SEAMEO RETRAC, with the funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology of Japan (MEXT), conducted a training course on "ICT Applications in Teaching

and Management" at the Centre's premises on March 26-28, 2019. Within the three days of training, 35 participants, who are teaching and academic staff of different universities and colleges in Vietnam, were provided with opportunities to explore updated ICT tools that could be used in teaching and management in education by Assoc. Prof. Yanagisawa Hideaki from National Institute of Technology, University of Tokuyama, Japan.



Conducting the Communicative English Training Courses for Staffs of Platinum Global in Ho Chi Minh City

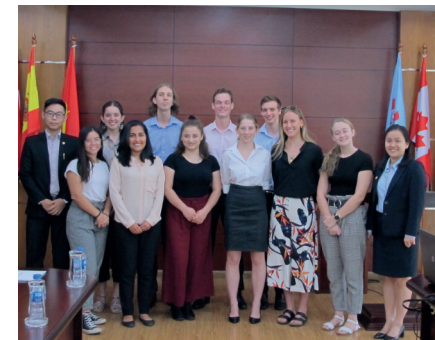
SEAMEO RETRAC organized 02 Communicative English training courses for 36 staffs of the Platinum Global Company at Platinum Global in Ho Chi Minh City respectively on January 08 – June 27, 2019, and on March 12 – August 15, 2019. The major objectives of the training courses are to improve participants' English language business communication skills and familiarize themselves with the format of emails and letters.



Visit of Students from Australia's Griffith Honour College

As an effort to establish stronger international bond with other global institutes and organizations, SEAMEO RETRAC welcomed a group of 12 undergraduate students and faculty from Griffith Honours College led by Ms. Victoria Menzies on January 16, 2019. A two-hour sharing session was held for Griffith's students to learn about SEAMEO and SEAMEO RETRAC's mission and challenges. During the session, they questioned RETRAC's staff

about Vietnam's challenges in education and higher education as well as the extension of the relationship between SEAMEO and Australian Government.



DFS Faculty Meeting in 2019

Division of Foreign Studies (DFS) organized the annual faculty meeting on January 24, 2019. The meeting aimed to give the faculty an update on the training programs, curricula, textbooks, and issues related to the teachers, to review DFS academic activities in 2018 and to

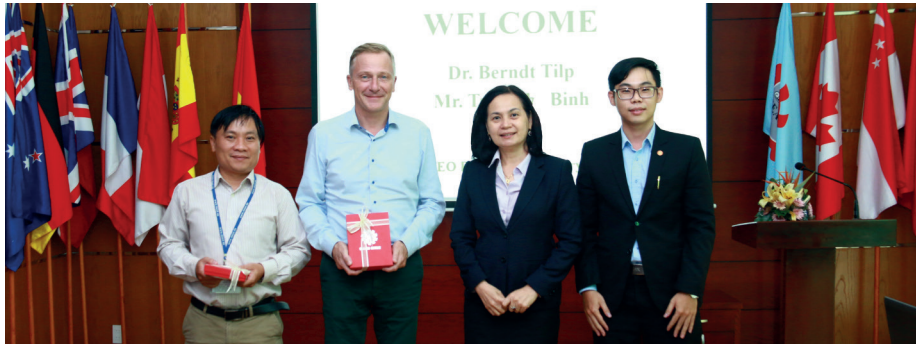
propose an action plan for the development of the Division in 2019. The meeting ended with an open discussion in which the teachers exchanged their experiences and discussed different questions related to the use of ICT in the classroom, teaching methodology and administrative issues.





Visit of the Delegation from German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), Germany

On February 18, 2019, a delegation from DAAD, Germany paid a visit to SEAMEO RETRAC in an effort of making connection and exploring possibility for collaboration in the field of education. During the meeting, both parties had time to update about each other’s operations, on- going projects, focuses and proposed some promising co-organized workshops and



conferences in the following years. SEAMEO RETRAC also received updated information from DAAD regarding their doctor, master and scholarship program in Germany. This “share and learn”

opportunity will be an important step toward establishing a long-term relationship between the two centers.



Visit of Delegation from Don Bosco Tech ASIA

During the trip to Vietnam from Feb 25 to March 1, 2019, representatives of Don Bosco Tech ASIA from Vietnam and Laos paid a visit to SEAMEO RETRAC in an attempt to build a relationship with the Center and learn about our contributions to the ASIA region. In the meeting, the representatives shared their expertise, focuses, missions in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), provided information about their 5 training centers across the Southern part of Vietnam. Correspondingly, they were updated with our recent

regional/local projects and research programs. As a token of goodwill as well as our commitment to our mission, RETRAC offered to join force with Don Bosco in TVET research in order to make

a bigger impact in the field of education. RETRAC also suggested connecting them with our sister Center in Cambodia that has similar missions and focuses.



Celebrating the International Women’s Day at SEAMEO RETRAC

From March 2-5, 2019 a lot of meaningful activities were organized by Kiddy Programs to celebrate the International Women’s Day at the Center’s premise. Students had a chance to partake in various activities such as crafting paper flowers, decorating cards and learning event related English vocabulary. These meaningful activities provided students with an opportunity to develop their creativity and express the appreciation for their beloved women.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 18-19, 2019

Regional Workshop on Southeast Asia Teacher Competency Framework (SEA-TCF) and Teachers' Satisfaction and Motivation

April 21, 2019

Sharing session on “Teaching Vocabulary to Kindergartens Using Show and Tell Series”

April 26, 2019

Forum on “Soft-skills Training Experience Sharing”

April - October, 2019

The Communicative English Training Courses for Staffs of Sabeco and Satraco in Ho Chi Minh City

May 12, 2019

Celebrating International Mother’s Day

May 14, 2019

Sharing session on “How to Mark IELTS Writing”

May 26, 2019

Welcoming Interns from University of Victoria, Canada

June 1, 2019

Celebrating International Children’s Day

June 10 - July 19, 2019

Summer Fun 2019

June 11, 2019

Sharing session on “How to Use Supplementary Materials for English for International Communication (EIC) Classes”



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The SEAMEO RETRAC Newsletter is quarterly publication of SEAMEO RETRAC Vietnam

35 Le Thanh Ton st. HCM city, Vietnam.

Tel: (84.28) 38 32174 - 38245618 - **Fax:** (84.28) 38232175

Email: contact@vnseameo.org

www.vnseameo.org