

A word cloud of business-related terms in various shades of blue, arranged in a large, abstract shape. The words are of different sizes and orientations, creating a dynamic visual effect. The background is a light blue gradient with a subtle geometric pattern of triangles and lines.

Key words visible include: GROWTH, RESEARCH, VISION, BUSINESS, TEAM, SALES, IDEAS, CONCEPTS, DATA, COOPERATION, INTEGRATED, NETWORK, INTERNATIONAL, SHARES, FUTURE, INVESTMENT, PRODUCTIVITY, EXPERTISE, STOCKMARKET, PEOPLE, CONNECT, PLANS, SOLUTION, IDEA, INVESTMENT, DATA, ADVICE, NEGOTIATION, COMMUNICATION, MARKETING, DECISION, SALES, INTERNATIONAL, STOCKMARKET, TEAMWORK, GLOBAL, RESEARCH, PLANS, GROWTH, PEOPLE, CONNECT, DATA, FINANCE, TEAM, BUSINESS, TEAM, IDEAS, CONCEPTS, PLANS.

**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER
(SEAMEO RETRAC)
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The Ceremony to Announce and Award Decisions on The Appointment of SEAMEO RETRAC's Directorship

On Dec 12, 2020, the Ceremony to announce and award Decisions on the appointment of Directorships of SEAMEO RETRAC was held at its premises. Participating in the Ceremony was Deputy Minister Nguyen Van Phuc, Ministry of Education and Training in Vietnam (MOET), Director General Nguyen Viet Loc, Personnel and Organization Department, delegates and representatives from MOET Vietnam. From the Party Committee, there were the presence of Mr. Pham Van Dung, representative from the Office of Communist Party of MOET and Ms. Nguyen Thi La, Standing Deputy Secretary of the Party Committee of Ho Chi Minh City University and College, and management board and staff of SEAMEO RETRAC.

At the Ceremony, Deputy Minister Nguyen Van Phuc awarded the decisions on re-appointing Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong as the Center Director

International Symposium "Advancing Knowledge and Skills in English Language Teaching in Industry 4.0 among the TESOL Practitioners in Vietnam"

SEAMEO RETRAC successfully held a two-day international symposium on "Advancing Knowledge and Skills in English Language Teaching in Industry 4.0 among TESOL Practitioners in Vietnam" on December 3-4, 2020. The symposium was proposed by SEAMEO RETRAC and sponsored by The U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City within the grant of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of bilateral relations between the United States and Viet Nam.

At the symposium, Mr. Jerrold Frank, Regional English Language Officer, U.S. Embassy in Ha Noi reviewed and provided useful information about current programs in English language teaching

for the term 2020-2023, and the following two Deputy Directors, Ms. Le Thi Thuy Duong and Mr. Nguyen Tan Hung.

Also, on this occasion, on behalf of Vietnam MOET, Deputy Minister Nguyen Van Phuc delivered a

speech to direct and assign tasks to the new Board of Directors of the Center to work closely with departments, units under the Ministry and local/international partners to further develop the Center as a comprehensive unit

with the highest efficiency to support the community. The consolidation of the Center's leadership has marked a new stage of development for the Center to continue pursuing its vision and mission.



and learning that RELO is managing in Vietnam.

Presentations and group discussion at the symposium focused on prominent issues related to English teaching and learning including opportunities and challenges of teaching English language in Industry 4.0; increasing students' motivation in online lessons; developing the 21st century skills; using ICT to design instructional materials, task-based language teaching; integrating social media into language learning; using Learning Management System (LMS) for English language instruction; designing and teaching effective CLIL lessons, and innovations in designing

and conducting communicative activities to develop learners' competences. Nearly 60 English specialists and teachers in Southern provinces/ cities in

Vietnam and 10 Vietnamese and international experts in the field of English language teaching attended the event.



The International Virtual Conference on TESOL “English Language Teaching in the Era of Globalization 4.0: Embracing the Challenges and Innovations”

On November 27, 2020, the International Virtual Conference on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on “English Language Teaching in the Era of Globalization 4.0: Embracing the Challenges and Innovations” was held virtually by SEAMEO RETRAC in cooperation with Curtin University, Australia. Approximately a thousand

participants from different countries attended 13 presentations at the virtual conference. Speakers were eminent researchers, lecturers and scholars from Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Vietnam. The conference contents focused on four topical areas: Current approaches and practices in Teaching Languages skills; Content and Language-Integrated Approaches; Technology-enhanced ELT; and Teacher Professional Development in ELT. The conference was a forum for professionals in the field of English language education to share and discuss

research findings, experiences, and practical and theoretical issues related to the teaching of English to learners of different backgrounds, levels, interests and motives.

Organizing international conferences, seminars and workshops for foreign language teachers is one of the strengths of SEAMEO RETRAC, contributing to the professional development for English teachers in order to successfully implement the goals of the National Foreign Languages Project, and expanding the cooperative links with regional and international countries in the field of language teaching.



The Communicative Business English Training Course for Social Entrepreneurs

A Communicative Business English training course for 30 social entrepreneurs, jointly conducted by SEAMEO Regional Training Center in Vietnam (SEAMEO RETRAC) and Public Affairs Section, the U.S Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, commenced on January 05, 2021 in HCMC.



The major objectives of this training courses are to enhance participants' English language communication skills and

confidence in communicating with their partners in various social contexts. Importantly, participants know how to use strategic

SEAMEO RETRAC 23rd Governing Board Meeting

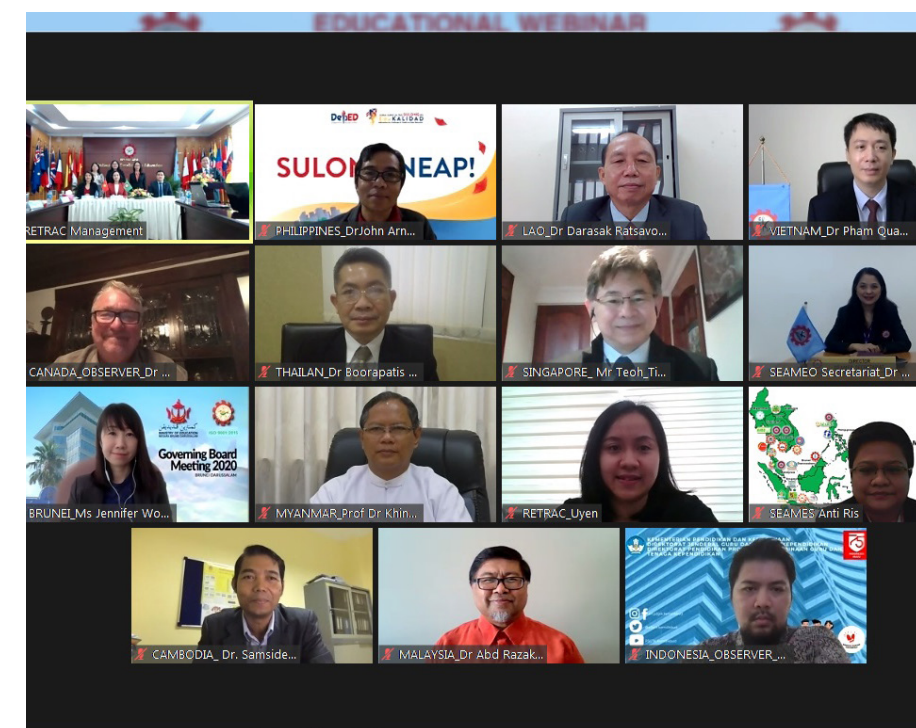
SEAMEO RETRAC organized its 23rd Governing Board Meeting on Oct 1-2, 2020. The meeting was conducted virtually via the Zoom platform due to the international travel restrictions and the social distancing policy resulting from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. Attending the meeting were the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Governing Board members, representatives and observers from 09 countries. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Centre's activities in the past fiscal year as well as gather recommendations from Governing Board members for the year ahead. Also, this year, SEAMEO RETRAC presented a draft of its 5-year Development Plan FY 2020/2021–FY 2025/2026 to seek inputs and advices from the members of the Governing Board before sending to SEAMEO Council for approval and implementation.

techniques for writing clear and concise correspondence with appropriate style and tone of various purposes. Moreover,



Furthermore, held back-to-back with the meeting was an Educational Webinar on “Innovative Solutions to Achieve Quality, Equity and Inclusiveness in Education in Southeast Asia”, which served as a platform for the exchange and discussion of ideas and expertise. At the Educational Webinar, 07 countries' best practices and experiences were shared by the SEAMEO

RETRAC's Governing Board members, keynote speakers from UNESCO-Bangkok, Thailand and BCCIE, Canada. By facilitating this event through Zoom app and YouTube channel, this Webinar has reached more audiences and gave more chances for participants to interact and discuss with the presenters in order to gain further insights on the topics of the presentations.



participants also have opportunities to strengthen their presentation, socializing and group discussion skills. The course will last from

January 05, 2021 to June 08, 2021 with 180 hours of immersive blended training and four hours of fieldwork activities.

Capacity Building Workshop on “Strengthening Global Citizenship in Higher Education for Sustainable Development”

In October 20-23, 2020, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a 4-day workshop on “Strengthening Global Citizenship in Higher Education for Sustainable Development” under the funding of the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO-APCEIU, South Korea) at the Centre’s premises – 35, Le Thanh Ton, District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

This workshop not only provided participants with ample opportunities to better

understand the concept and principles of Global Citizenship Education (GCED), but also engaged them in insightful discussions to share their experience with other participants from different institutions, colleges and universities in Vietnam about how to contextualize and adopt GCED into their schools’ curriculum and related programs. Four main topics introduced in each day of the workshop included

- (1) Introduction of Global Citizenship Education;
- (2) Contextualization of GCED in the Regional and National Context;
- (3) Global Citizenship in Higher Education: Challenges and Strategies,

(4) Innovative approaches and methodologies of GCED and Action Plan.

The participants of the workshop included 40 leaders, administrators, educators, and senior teaching staff from different higher education institutions in Vietnam who are working in the areas of GCED, sustainable development, community development and other related areas.

After the four-day face-to-face training course, a virtual forum on SEAMEO RETRAC’s Moodle site was conducted within three days for participants to have more chances to discuss issues related to GCED and its best practices at their institutional level as well as gain access to lectures, reading materials and assignments.



Meeting with the Board of the National Foreign Languages Project and Department of Training and Education of Tien Giang Province

On November 22, 2020 SEAMEO RETRAC had a meeting with the Board of the National Foreign Languages Project and Tien Giang Department of Training and Education. The meeting aimed to review and evaluate the implementation of professional training courses for English teachers at school levels in the training plan of 2020 for Tien Giang province. After the meeting, the delegates paid several class visits to meet the course

Training Course “ICT Applications in Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content”

With the aim of equipping participants with useful knowledge and skills in applying innovative ICT tools in teaching foreign languages, the training course on “ICT Applications in Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content” was organized on September 29-30, 2020.

The participants of the course included 15 trainers, lecturers, and academic staff from department of foreign languages of different universities and colleges as well as teachers from various foreign language centers in Ho Chi Minh City and



participants and instructors and learn how the training courses were implemented and how they

would apply the knowledge and skills in their teaching contexts.



its nearby provinces. In Day 1 of the course, participants were introduced with ICT applications and supplementary websites to create teaching materials embedded with multimedia content by designing and

editing pictures, sounds and videos. Moreover, in Day 2, participants were updated with cutting-edge ICT tools in creating games, quizzes and tests to assess students’ understanding during the lesson.

Virtual International Training Course on “Capacity Building in Higher Education Leadership and Management”

On December 01-11, 2020, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a virtual international training course on “Capacity Building in Higher Education Leadership and Management”. Participants of the course included 33 leaders and administrators of different higher education institutions from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam.

This course aimed at equipping participants with updated knowledge and current practices in leadership and management

in higher education as well as giving them opportunities to share their experience with other participants and trainers. The topics of discussion covered at the training course included

- (1) Innovation in educational leadership: influence, empower and engagement for success,
- (2) Strategic planning and resource development in higher education,
- (3) Strategies for inspiring positive change in higher education,
- (4) Curriculum assessment and evaluation in higher education.

The training course is one of the strategic mission activities annually carried out by SEAMEO RETRAC to support

countries in Southeast Asia, especially Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam, in strengthening leadership

and managerial capacity for their schools’ leaders. This year, the course was conducted online on SEAMEO RETRAC’s

Moodle site and Zoom platform under the facilitation of Dr. Anita C. Oblina, Senior Education Specialist, SEAMEO RETRAC,

Vietnam and Dr. Chris Bottrill, Director, International, Capilano University, Canada. During phase 1 from December 01 to December 04, 2020, participants joined the lecture series on Zoom platform within 4 days. In phase 2 (December 07-11, 2020), participants accessed the SEAMEO RETRAC’s Moodle site to get instructional materials, reply to questions in forum discussion and complete assignments. After fully attending the course and accomplishing the course requirements, participants received the Certificate of Completion.



The Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Intake 19

Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC commenced the nineteenth intake of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics program on November 09, 2020.

Enrolled in this intake were 35 teachers of English from different provinces throughout Vietnam.

The first workshop of Intake 19 was conducted from November 09-12, 2020.

The next three workshops will be sequentially conducted in March, July, and November of 2021. Twenty-seven (27) students of the Intake 18 also participated in their final



workshop of the program after one week with those of Intake 19.

These students are expected to graduate in August 2021. This program has effectively contributed to the development

of human resources for English language teaching in Vietnam and the region

Upcoming Events

January 26-28, 2021

Virtual Training Course on “ICT Applications in Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content”

February 05, 2021

SEAMEO RETRAC Annual Staff Meeting

March 24-26, 2021

Virtual Training Course on “ICT Applications in Teaching and Course Management”

March 04-13, 2021

Capacity Building for Guidance Counselors at Universities and High Schools in Vietnam “Open Door to U.S. Higher Education”



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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