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Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela is presently the Director of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat, the first female Director since SEAMEO was organized in 1965. She served as the first female Deputy Director for Programme and Development of SEAMEO Secretariat from July 2015 to March 2019 and led the Educational Research and Innovation Office of SEAMEO INNOTECH, from 2006 to June 2015.

Prior to joining SEAMEO, she was and Director IV of the Office of Student Services and Director III at the International Affairs Services in the Commission on Higher Education Philippines (1995-2006) and was responsible for foreign and local scholarship programs, academic mobility and transnational education. She has also served as Vice Chairperson of the UNESCO National Commission Education Commissioner (2000-2010). She is a Professorial lecturer at the University of the Philippines and De la Salle University in Manila.

Dr Valenzuela's expertise is on internationalization of higher education and transnational education, teacher education, alternative learning and secondary education. She has published international and local articles, journals, technical reports and guidelines for some SEAMEO and other international organizations such as UNESCO, UNICEF, CHED and DepEd. Among her well-noted research work were: Philippine Higher Education Guide (CHED), K to 12 Toolkit; Quality Assurance, Mutual Recognition in Higher Education (UNESCO Paris); Toolkit for the Recognition of Higher Education Qualifications (UNESCO BKK); Toolkit for National Information Centers (UNESCO Bangkok), ESD Toolkit for Secondary Schools; Internationalization of Philippine Higher Education (UNESCO Natcom) and Reform and Development in Philippine Higher Education; The Southeast Asian Teaching Standards; Multigrade Quality Indicators in Southeast Asia; K to 12 Regional Comparison in Southeast Asia and published at the International Encyclopedia of Education under Elsevier London to name a few.

Dr Valenzuela is presently an Advisory Board member of the Global Education Monitoring and a Steering Committee Member of UN SDG Goal 4.0 at UNESCO Headquarters.

She holds Doctor of Education in Educational Management at De La Salle University, MA in Science Education at the Philippine Normal University and Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education major in English and General Science. She is a Career Executive Service Officer (CESO IV) in the Philippine Government and a member of various international professional and academic organizations including the Phi Lambda Theta Honor Society of Women Leaders in Education and the Phi Delta Kappa. She was awarded as Philippine Normal University's Blue Ribbon Award for Distinguished Alumni in 2013, and a World Bank Fellow in Multilingual Education.

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