

# MICHELLE C. SARABILLO

Specialist, Learning Development and Evaluation  
Unit  
Learning Development and Management Office  
SEAMEO INNOTECH  
Email: mitch@seameo-innotech.org

## THE SOUTHEAST ASIAN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (SEA-SLP) LEADING SCHOOLS IN TIMES OF UNCERTAINTY

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As this pandemic continues to unfold, we see that the situation is ever-changing. Schools continue to update its policies, protocols and procedures as new information and guidelines become available. The spotlight is on school leaders to manage these uncertainties; but even under a normal situation, leading and managing change is not easy. With no playbook available, how might school leaders sharpen and develop their competencies and mindsets during this time of great uncertainty and ambiguity?

The Southeast Asian School Leadership Program (SEA-SLP) is an online practitioner-oriented program designed to help school leaders navigate the changing landscape and uncertain times. It is based on the Southeast Asia Competency Framework for School Heads, which was developed by INNOTECH in collaboration with the different Ministries of Education in the region. The framework highlights five essential competencies: strategic thinking and innovation, instructional leadership, managerial leadership, stakeholder engagement, and personal excellence. Against the background of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the shifts and reforms in education that are happening in the region and in the world, these competencies are discussed and reflected on, individually and in groups, using frameworks, approaches and tools that are attuned and responsive to the unique issues and realities of school leaders in the region.

SEA-SLP was piloted in January 2021, and is now on its third regional run. It has also been customized and offered to teacher leaders in Cambodia in partnership with the National Institute of Education. Another in-country offering is in the works, this time in partnership with Sumedang District Education Office, Indonesia.

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Just as the pandemic drove and accelerated changes across the learning and education system, it compelled INNOTECH to change the way its SEDF program is delivered, from blended approach to fully online. With the fully online delivery, INNOTECH is able to double the number of scholars-participants from each SEAMEO-member country. Through SEA-SLP, we are seeing the benefit and promise of online development programs to preparing school leaders for the challenges ahead.

# ABSTRACT