



Vol 58 - September 2016

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SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting (CDM) 2016



The Annual SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting took place on July 27-29, 2016 at S31 Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand to review the organization's operations within FY 2015/2016. The meeting was attended by more than 90 participants including the Center Directors and key staffs of SEAMEO Centers and the Secretariat, representatives of Associate and Affiliate Members, and invited partners such as: the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology, Japan; the ASEAN Secretariat; University of Tsukuba; ASEAN-China Center; etc.

In the in-camera session, agenda items included inter-Center collaboration. The session was followed by the Centers' reports and updates on major accomplishments, proposals and matters for acknowledgements. Furthermore, the collaborative and networking session with invited partners came to the end

with new projects firmed up and new areas of collaboration with potential partners defined.

International Conference on “Towards Excellence in Leadership and Management in Higher Education”



In collaboration with British Columbia Council for International Education in Canada, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the International Conference in “Towards Excellence in Leadership and Management in Higher Education” on July 28-29, 2016, at the Center’s premises.

The conference was held with the aims of providing the participants who were educational leaders, practitioners, researchers and professional experts with the opportunities of sharing information, experiences, and research results in relation to key issues in leadership and management for quality in higher education, aiming at sustainable development in the 21st century among universities and colleges. The

conference laid the emphasis on emerging issues such as leadership and management, including: Redefining the Roles of Higher Education Leaders in the 21st Century; Teacher Education; Integration of the 21st Century Skills in Curriculum; Curriculum Innovation; ICT Integration to Achieve Effectiveness in Teaching and Management; and, Quality Assurance and Accreditation in Higher Education. In addition, the conference also focused on developing a platform for development and expansion of regional and international collaborations among universities and colleges.

Participants in the Conference were 20 presenters who were educational experts, researchers and leaders of higher education and more than 70 leaders, administrators, educational practitioners and researchers of higher education institutions, educational organizations and agencies from different countries of Australia, the Kingdom of Cambodia, Canada, France, Lao PDR, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, the U.S., and Vietnam. The conference also served as a shared platform for participants to promote collaboration academically and professionally.



7th Annual International Conference on “Innovations in English Language Teaching and Learning”

On August 11-13, 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC held the 7th Annual International Conference on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on “Innovations in English Language Teaching and Learning” at Quy Nhon University’s premises, Binh Dinh Province. The conference was organized by SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with Curtin University and Quy Nhon University. More than 200 participants attended 44 presentations and 8 workshops presented at the conference by eminent researchers, lecturers and scholars surrounding the five sub-themes: Engaging Learners in English Language Learning and Using; Facilitating Learners’ Sustainable English Learning and Using; Enhancing ICT Application in English Language Teaching and Learning; Promoting Diversified Modes and Forms of English Language Teaching and Learning; and, English Teaching and Learning for Regional and Global Integration. 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. This was a valuable opportunity for English teachers to take part in their continuing professional development, networking and collaborative activities with their colleagues coming from different parts of the world. Organizing international conferences, seminars and workshops for foreign language teachers is one of the strengths of SEAMEO RETRAC. It contributes to the professional development for English teachers in Vietnam in order to successfully implement the goals of the National Foreign Languages Project 2020, and expanding the cooperative links with regional and international countries in the field of language teaching. The conference was sponsored by the U.S. Regional English Language Office (RELO) and National Geographic Learning – Cengage Learning.



Training Activities

International Training Course on Strengthening Capacity in Leadership and Management in Higher Education

SEAMEO RETRAC conducted the international training course on Strengthening Capacity in Leadership and Management in Higher Education from July 25-27, 2016 for 32 educational leaders and administrators from colleges and universities from the Kingdom of Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. The course aimed to enhance the leaders' and administrators' educational leadership and management skills in higher education as well as to provide the participants with practical knowledge and experiences in educational leadership and management in these three countries. Topics which were facilitated at the workshop included Leadership in the 21st Century, Change Management in Higher Education, Developing Staff and Managing Team. Participants at the workshop also had the chance to share their experiences as well as challenges facing their institutions.



Training Workshops on Teaching Methodology and Professional Development

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with the U.S. Regional English Language Office (RELO) successfully conducted two training workshops on "English Teaching: Best Practices in ELT" for 60 lecturers of English and specialists of English from Departments of Education and Training from August 01-05, 2016. The training workshops were delivered by Dr. Dawn Bikowski, Director of English Language Improvement Program, Linguistics Department from Ohio University, USA. The participants greatly appreciated this precious training course and wished to have opportunities to attend similar valuable trainings for professional development in the future. On this occasion, on August 06, the workshop on "Planning and Implementing Successful Teacher Development Programs", co-hosted by National Geographic Learning - Cengage Learning and SEAMEO RETRAC, was conducted for the English specialists.



The Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program: Intake 14 Graduation Ceremony

The Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, jointly conducted by Curtin University (Australia) and SEAMEO RETRAC, is designed for professionals in the field of English language teaching. The program concentrates on teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) and also considers issues connected with ESL teaching in Vietnam and the region. The course has been designed for teachers intending to work in Vietnam and in other countries. Students need to complete and pass the 200 credit points by completing Curtin's approved eight units through a blended learning format of online and onsite delivery at SEAMEO RETRAC.

On August 09, 2016, the fourteenth batch of 31 students in this program, celebrated their graduation. The fifteenth intake is now in progress. Enrolled in these two intakes were teachers of English from provinces throughout Vietnam. This is a successful training program, which has so far recruited 607 candidates in 15 intakes, with 533 graduates, effectively contributing to the development of human resources for English language teaching in Vietnam and the region.



Workshop on Grading IELTS Writing Papers



On June 24, 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a workshop on “Grading IELTS Writing Papers” for teachers of English at the Center's premises. The session was conducted by the academic staff of the Division of Foreign Studies. The workshop covered the prominent issues involving teachers' familiarity with IELTS writing band descriptors and employing them in grading IELTS writing papers properly, and also provided them with an identical writing feedback code for all exam-preparation classes to facilitate the consistency of correcting learners' writing papers.

Administrating Tests of English Proficiency for English Language Teachers

During the third quarter of 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC administered tests of English proficiency for nearly 500 English language teachers in Long An 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.



Training Workshop on ICT Applications in Teaching and Learning

A series of training on ICT Applications in Teaching and Learning including three modules was designed and conducted at the Center from May 19-20, June 09-10, and August 04-05, 2016 respectively. The three modules aimed at providing the participants with in-depth knowledge and skills in ICT application in instructional material development, and creating dynamic lecture presentation. Participants were involved in learning and practicing such applications as Kahoot, Gliffy, Socrative, goFormative, Easel.ly, Piktochart, Storyline, Powtoon, Dragdis, TheHubEdu, Edmodo, Google Classroom, Canvas, and Schoology in the practice of teaching and management. In addition, the participants were also given opportunities for sharing experiences in applying ICT in teaching and learning in their contexts, especially challenges to ICT application. The courses attracted as many as 40 participants, who are lecturers, ICT staff from different universities, colleges and educational institutions in the country.



Other Activities

Staff Retreat in Thailand

SEAMEO RETRAC Trade Union organized a retreat for the staff to Thailand in May 2016. This trip was a great chance for SEAMEO RETRAC staff to take a rest after a long, hardworking year as well as to reinforce the mutual understanding and cooperation among staff and between staff and management board. During the trip, besides places of interest in Thailand, SEAMEO RETRAC staff had a chance to come and visit SEAMEO Headquarter in Bangkok.



Summer Fun 2016

After six weeks in operation, from June 13 to July 22, 2016, the Summer Fun 2016, co-organized by SEAMEO RETRAC and Queens College, the City University of New York, concluded with a closing ceremony on July 22, 2016 at the Center's premises with the participation of all 221 students together with instructors, parents and academic staff. This annual special six-week English course was designed for children from 07 to 15 years old. Participating in Summer Fun this year, students were helped to develop their four language skills and enhance other skills through different indoor and outdoor activities surrounding such interesting topics as: art, music, storytelling, sports and survival skills, and cultures of Southeast Asian countries. These activities enabled students to develop their English language skills in an interactive and, most importantly, fun environment. At the same time, this program also aimed at helping children to improve cultural awareness of English speaking countries, and develop their confidence in daily communication, their creativeness and teamwork spirit. In addition to classroom activities, students were offered a chance to explore the world around and learn social and practical knowledge through fieldtrips and outdoor activities.



The Visits of the Delegations from Niagara College, Lakehead University and Portland State University

During the third quarter of 2016, SEAMEO RETRAC had a chance to welcome delegations from Niagara College, Lakehead University and Portland State University. The primary purpose of their visits was to explore the Center activities and pave possible ways for collaboration.



Upcoming Events

- Leading University Policy Innovation Seminar on “Leading from Where You Sit”, September 06-09, 2016
- The Visit of Vietnam’s Minister of Education and Training, September 22-23, 2016
- SEAMEO RETRAC 20th Anniversary, September 22, 2016
- SEAMEO RETRAC 19th Governing Board Meeting, September 22-23, 2016
- Educational Forum on “Education Innovation for an ASEAN Integration”, September 23, 2016
- Canadian Education Fair, October 16, 2016
- Canadian Overseas Study Seminar, October 17, 2016
- U.S. Overseas Study Seminar, October 21, 2016
- English Oratorical Contest, October 29, 2016
- Celebration of Teachers’ Day, November 20, 2016



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