

SEAMEO RETRAC

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The 20th SEAMEO RETRAC Governing Board Meeting

The 20th Governing Board Meeting was both a time to reflect on the past year and gather recommendations for the year ahead.

In September, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted our 20th Governing Board Meeting (GBM) in Da Nang, Vietnam. The GBM was both a time to reflect on the past year and gather recommendations from our board members. This year's GBM welcomed 7 board members and 3 representatives from 10 SEAMEO Member Countries. Our board members praised RETRAC's activities and our ISO

9001:2015 certification. They offered their insights on RETRAC establishing an academic journal, innovative practices within SEAMEO Centers, and interest in a pre-service teacher exchange program. Our board members encouraged RETRAC to share the results and benefits of our successful training programs with all SEAMEO Member Countries.

Following the GBM, SEAMEO RETRAC's Roundtable Discussion on Integrating 21st Century Skills into School Education allowed participants to share case studies on adopting 21st century skills on adopting 21st century skills into national school policy. Governing board members and our distinguished participants agreed that training teachers' 21st century skills is a regional priority.

The 49th SEAMEO Council Conference & Center Directors Meeting

The 49th SEAMEO Council Conference was held in late July 2017 in Jakarta, Indonesia. More than 200 delegates, ministerial officers, high officials, SEAMEO Center staff and international organizations from the eleven SEAMEO Member Countries attended the conference. The conference included a ministerial level forum on strategy for imple-

menting SEAMEO's regional programs and the election for President of the SEAMEO Council. On this occasion, SEAMEO RETRAC's notable staff Ms. Trinh Thi Hoa Phuong received the SEAMEO Service Award in honor of her career serving the region.

Following the conference, the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2017 (CDM) was held at the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture. The CDM 2017 explored inter-center collaboration on projects within the SEAMEO 7 Priority

Areas. SEAMEO RETRAC offered the CDM four collaborative projects. The CDM concluded with upcoming projects affirmed and new areas for collaboration well defined.



International Conference Leadership & Management in Higher Education



SEAMEO RETRAC hosts international conferences to give all educators a voice in the global debate on higher education leadership & management. In collaboration with Canada's British Columbia Council for International Education, SEAMEO RETRAC co-hosted a two-day International Conference on Leadership and Management in Higher Education: Challenges, Opportunities & Ways Forward" on 27-28 July. The Conference allowed nearly 80 participants and 29 presenters from Australia, Canada, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Pakistan,

the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, the UAE, and Vietnam to share insights and research in effective educational leadership. Presentations emphasized regional issues such as; 21st century leadership, curriculum modernization, work readiness, quality assurance mechanisms, and classroom dynamics. The international environment fostered networking among educational leaders, practitioners, researchers, and diplomats.

8th Annual International Conference on TESOL



Organizing international conferences is one of SEAMEO RETRAC's contributions

to international educators' professional development. On 10-11 August, SEAMEO RETRAC & Curtin University co-organized the, "8th Annual International TESOL Conference: ELT in the 21st Century: Challenges and Opportunities". SEAMEO RETRAC welcomed more than 200 participants, 25 speakers, 20 poster presentations, and 5 workshops by eminent researchers, lecturers, and specialists in ELT, English Language Teaching. The conference centered on four sub-themes: Fostering learner autonomy in ELT; Redefining the roles of teachers and learners in ELT; and Creating an engaging environment in ELT. The conference contributed to Vietnam's National Foreign Languages 2020 Project's goals to encourage Vietnamese English teachers' professional development. As a testament to our shared goal to improve learning outcomes, the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and the U.S Embassy's Regional English Language Office sponsored conference registration fees for 75 English teachers from rural provinces in Vietnam.

Graduation of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program

On 9 August, 39 students from the 15th intake of the Curtin University & SEAMEO RETRAC joint-degree Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program celebrated their graduation. As a center committed to excellence in language education we are proud of our 39 graduates and 576 alumni; whose careers contribute to improved learning outcomes in Vietnam and the region. Enrolled in this intake were English teachers from provinces throughout Vietnam. As of 2017, our joint-degree program has graduated 576 students. The 16th intake begins in November.



Seminar on Leadership & Management in Higher Education in the 21st Century



SEAMEO RETRAC hosts international seminars to offer educational leaders new perspectives, networks, and skills. In cooperation with Canada's British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), SEAMEO RETRAC held a seminar on, "Leadership and Management in Higher Education in the 21st Century" for 30 Vietnamese university leaders on 26 July. The seminar was facilitated by experts from Canada's BCCIE, Royal Roads University, Langara College, & Memorial University of Newfoundland. These experts equipped participants with insights on 21st century higher education leadership. The seminar was an opportunity for networking between Vietnamese colleagues and Canadian facilitators.

Seminar III on Leading University Policy Realization for USAID's BUILD-IT Project



Under the sponsorship of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), SEAMEO RETRAC, Portland State University, and Arizona State University co-organized Seminar III of the "Building University-Industry Learning and Development through Innovation and Technology" (BUILD-IT) project

from 6-8 September. Seminar III concentrated on Leading University Policy Realization for 25 administrators from Vietnamese STEM universities. During the 3-day training, participants discussed policy communication, mobilizing policy implementation, sustainability, realization, and action strategies. Participants explored US case studies and presented policy related experiences in their institutions. This seminar contributes to the advancement of Vietnam's STEM education system – a priority area for capacity building.

Training Workshop on Backward Curriculum Design in English Language Teaching



In collaboration with the with U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and the U.S. Embassy in Ha Noi's Regional English Language Office (RELO), SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a three-day training workshop on Backward Curriculum Design in English Language Teaching for 30 Vietnamese lecturers from 7-9 August. The workshop, led by Ms. Amy Christensen, English Language Specialist from Central New Mexico Community College, U.S.A, demonstrated practical strategies and tools to effectively use backward curriculum design in their own classrooms. The workshop focused on achieving, assessing, and designing goal-oriented learning experiences. The US Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, RELO, and SEAMEO RETRAC co-organized this workshop in the spirit of our shared vision to improve English teaching in Vietnam and the region. We look forward to future collaborative trainings which will offer our region further professional development opportunities.

Training on Soft-skills Teaching Module 3



SEAMEO RETRAC provides soft-skills teaching workshops to help educators develop students' soft-skills. Soft-skills are interpersonal collaborative skills students need to succeed in work, study, and life. Module 3 of our soft-skills teaching workshop was conducted from 28-31 August at the Center. Module 3 provided 20 participants from local universities, youth unions, and student associations with insight on developing students' interpersonal skills. Participants were encouraged to share their experiences in fostering university students' soft-skills and conducting in-class activities.

Training on Grant Proposal Writing



SEAMEO RETRAC hosts grant proposal writing courses to empower regional stakeholders to align their goals with an international donors' missions in order to maximize resources and results. From August 30 to September 1, RETRAC hosted a 3-day training on international project proposal writing techniques for 16 academics and officers from Vietnamese universities. The course, led by RETRAC's international staff facilitator, reinforced proposal management tools, writing guides, and international perspectives on technical writing. The training prepared participants to lead project teams to write logical proposals which considers donors' expectations.

Professional English Teacher Trainings in three Vietnamese Provinces



As a center committed to Vietnam's National Foreign Languages Project 2020, SEAMEO RETRAC works to improve educators' language teaching

capacities in different provinces. SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with the Departments of Education and Training in Ba Ria, Vung Tau, Dong Nai, and Binh Duong provinces conducted professional training courses for 350 English teachers from July through September 2017. The three-module courses covered English for teaching, ICT for language instruction and teaching methodologies. The course combined face-to-face and online

learning via online platforms, Tech4Teach and My ELT, designed by SEAMEO RETRAC and our partner National Geographic Learning, USA. Improved English teaching capacities in these provinces is SEAMEO RETRAC's contribution to their educational development.



Summer Fun Program 2017

Summer Fun is an annual extracurricular activity program designed for children from age 7 to 15 held during the school year's two-month summer break. Summer Fun 2017 hosted 8 volunteer teachers from Queens College, City University of New York, USA and 320 local students. By participating in Summer Fun, students not only developed their four language skills in an interactive and playful environment, but also had an opportunity to engage their artistic, musical, scientific, storytelling, athletic, survival, and intercultural skills. The program's project-learning methods also helped children improve their cultural awareness, develop their confidence, creativity, and teamwork.



UPCOMING EVENTS

OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2017

International Training Workshop on
Experiences & Solutions of Southeast Asian Countries
in Teaching Mathematics and Science in English

12th - 13th October

Trainer-Training Workshop on Soft Skills Teaching - Module 1

23rd - 26th October

Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics - Intake 16

14th November

Workshop on Project Management in Education

22nd - 24th November

Training Workshop on ICT Applications

23rd - 24th November

In-country Training in Educational
Leadership & Management - Lao PDR

5th - 8th December

Training Workshop on Human Resource Management

13th - 15th December





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35 Le Thanh Ton St. Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Tel: (84.28) 38232174 - 38245618 - **Fax:** (84.28) 38232175

Email: contact@vnseameo.org

www.vnseameo.org