

SEAMEO RETRAC

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Training the Trainer Course on Leadership and Management for 21st Century Educational Administrators in Lao PDR

Training Workshop: Experience & Solutions of Southeast Asian Countries in Teaching Mathematics & Science in English





SEAMEO RETRAC is committed to improving the leadership capacity of educational administrators in Lao PDR and conducts annual in-country training the trainer courses to build up Laotian master trainers' own capacity to train their educational leaders. On 5-8 December, SEAMEO RETRAC and the Institute for Educational Administration Development (IFEAD) of the Lao Ministry

of Education and Sports co-organized an in-country training the trainer course in Leadership and Management for 21st Century Educational Administrators in Lao PDR's capital city, Vientiane. Our educational trainers focused on updating Laotian master trainers' knowledge and practices in Innovative Instructional Leadership, Problem Solving, Decision Making, Effective Presentations, and

Creative & Critical Thinking. 31 managers and lecturers from the IFEAD and various institutions attended hoping to build their own capacity to inspire and prepare national trainers to advance Laotian administrators' 21st century leadership capacities.

Responding to Vietnam's National Foreign Languages 2020 Project's objective to improve "Teaching and Learning in Foreign Languages within the National Education System", SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a regional workshop entitled: "Experiences and Solutions of Southeast Asian Countries in Teaching Mathematics and Science in English" held in Nha Trang City, Vietnam on 12-13 October.

The training workshop was a regional forum for experts, administrators and teachers from Vietnam and the region to share experiences and effective systems

for teaching Mathematics and Science in English. The training workshop gathered over 100 participants from 40 Vietnamese provinces and speakers from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam and the United Kingdom. The workshop focused on pre- and in-service teacher training, both curriculum and materials development, and student assessments.

The workshop was a meaningful forum to enhance regional models for teaching Mathematics and Science in English, foster a diverse learning environment, and integrate subject content with English language skills. The workshop

better equips educators with the skills they will need to prepare students for an ever-globalizing society.



The 40th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting

As an intergovernmental organization, SEAMEO gathers consensus through a series of annual regional meetings. The High Officials Meeting (HOM) is an annual high-level forum on issues of education, science, and culture in South-east Asia. The results of the 40th SEAMEO HOM will influence SEAMEO's regional dialogue for the coming year. The 40th SEAMEO HOM brought together high-level education officials from the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries and representatives from SEAMEO Centers, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, and partner organizations. Convening in Bangkok, Thailand from 29-30 November, ministry officials deliberated on ongoing projects and upcoming efforts in regional cooperation. Notably, the HOM endorsed the SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Applica-



tion of the Asia-Pacific Center for Education for International Understanding, detailed collaborative projects with UNICEF & UNESCO, applauded the winners of the SEAMEO-JAPAN ESD Award, discussed a SEAMEO Innovation

Award, and celebrated SEAMEO's 52nd birthday. The 41st SEAMEO HOM will reconvene in November 2018 to carry the regional dialogue forward.

Opening Ceremony for the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Intake 16



Committed to educating the region's next generation of professional language teachers, Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC commenced their sixteenth intake of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics joint-degree program by hosting the program's first workshop from 14–17 November, 2017. After the face-to-face workshop, the students will continue their online study with the support from their lecturers. The following three workshops will be conducted in February, July, and November 2018.

The sixteenth intake enrolled about 40 English teachers from Vietnam, Australia and the U.S.A. This program continues to effectively improve both the quality and qualifications of English language teachers in Vietnam and worldwide.

Administering Vietnamese Standardized Test of English Proficiency for Teachers in Vinh Long Province



As an official testing body for the Vietnamese Standardized Test of English Proficiency (VSTEP) from 30 September

to 1 October 2017, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Department of Education and Training in Vinh Long Province, administered the VSTEP for 126 English teachers from provincial primary and secondary schools. The VSTEP reviews teachers' English proficiency and helps raise awareness of self & ongoing learning for professional development.

Workshop on Techniques in Teaching IELTS



As a center dedicated to improving

language teaching methodologies, we host international trainings to share global best practices to Vietnamese teachers. On 30 November, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a workshop on “Techniques in Teaching IELTS” for 35 English Teachers. The workshop was conducted by Mr. Richard Hallows; co-author of National Geographic Learning’s best-selling IELTS series, “IELTS Express”. The workshop demonstrated realistic strategies and techniques which teachers and students can use to deal with challenging readings in the IELTS exam. We hope that our teachers’ updated skills can enhance their students’ outcomes and their own professional development.

Research Seminar on the Quality of Secondary Education in Vietnam



SEAMEO RETRAC supports research projects that aim to improve education around the region. In collaboration with Oxford University’s Department of International Development and Young Lives Project, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a seminar on, “The Quality of Secondary Education in Viet Nam” on 28 November. Dr. Padmini and Dr. Rolleston shared the findings from a survey conducted with 7,000 grade 10 students from 52 schools across Vietnam. The attending administrators, researchers, and lectures from Ho Chi Minh City’s universities, educational institutes and high schools contributed to the dialogue on the quality of secondary education, research methods, and international collaboration.

Training Workshop on Project Management in Education



With the aim to assist both faculty & staff from universities and colleges to enhance their management capacity, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a training workshop on Project Management in Education from 13-15 December. During the 3-day training workshop, 10 participants from universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City familiarized themselves with theories and practices in project development, implementation, budgeting, stakeholder management, monitoring and evaluation. In addition, the workshop provided participants an opportunity to share their own experiences and challenges in project management at their institutions.

Training workshop on ICT Applications in Online Learning Management



Back by popular demand, from 30 November to 1 December SEAMEO RETRAC held a two-day ICT training workshop to offer lecturers and educational managers from colleges and universities in Ho Chi Minh City a chance to build their skills in ICT Applications in Online Learning Management. Participants developed their skills in online management tools and

exchanged their own approaches on using these tools in their classrooms and offices.

Overseas Studies Seminar at Tra Vinh University



SEAMEO RETRAC offers overseas studies support to help Vietnamese students access the best educational opportunities available to them worldwide. On 19 October, SEAMEO RETRAC’s Overseas Studies Department presented overseas scholarships and affordable opportunities to 400 students from high schools and universities in Tra Vinh province. The students and parents in Tra Vinh asked good questions about overseas studies for two hours. The students surprised our overseas staff with their in-depth questions and serious interest in overseas studies.

MOU signed with Canada’s College of the Rockies



College of the Rockies, Canada (COR) and SEAMEO RETRAC look forward to co-developing projects that serve both their missions to improve educational quality in the region. With this shared vision in mind, on 17 October, 2017 SEAMEO RETRAC and the COR signed an MOU regarding project & curriculum development and research activities in areas of mutual interest.

Celebrating Vietnamese Teachers' Day

On 20 November 2017, SEAMEO RETRAC celebrated Vietnamese Teachers' Day with a lively celebration. This was an opportunity for the Center to express its gratitude to all the teachers and staff who contributed to RETRAC's development over the past year. During the celebration, the Center's Director granted the annual SEAMEO RETRAC Teaching Award to the eight excellent teachers. The celebration concluded with musical performances, games, and prizes for us all to enjoy our community of teachers and friends.



Visit of students & faculty from Australia's Griffith University

SEAMEO RETRAC welcomes all visitors, who share our mission, to join us to both share knowledge, passion, and develop

a community of educators driven towards the same goals. On 27 November, SEAMEO RETRAC held a two-hour

sharing session with 13 undergraduate students and faculty from Australia's Griffith University. The students visited Vietnam to engage with social enterprises and organizations in Vietnam interested in social impact. The students learned about RETRAC's mission and recent projects. They questioned a panel of RETRAC staff about Vietnam's challenges and opportunities in education development. The students shared similarities between SEAMEO RETRAC's mission and similar organizations in Australia. The visit established goodwill among all those interested in education as a means to a better quality of life.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY - MARCH 2018

Training Workshop on ICT Applications 2018

25 - 26 January

Workshop on Human Resource Management in Education

29 - 31 January

The Annual Faculty Meeting of the Division of Foreign Studies

5 February

Women's Day activities at Kiddy Programs, SEAMEO RETRAC

3 March

Workshop #2: Master of Applied Linguistics Workshop - Intake 16

6 - 9 March

Trainer-Training Workshop on Soft Skills Teaching

19 - 22 March

Sharing session on teaching IELTS Reading

28 March

Workshop ICT application in Teaching and Academic Management

28 - 30 March





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