

SEAMEO RETRAC



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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

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Visit of H.E.Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia and concurrently SEAMEO Council President & the Delegation

On July 24, 2018, H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia and concurrently SEAMEO Council President together with the delegation have paid a visit to SEAMEO RETRAC in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy highly appreciated the activities of the



Center in the past, especially the training activities on leadership, education management for the region, organizing international conferences, fostering teachers as well as educational research activities to better realize SEAMEO's regional priorities and also gave guidance and directions for the future development of SEAMEO RETRAC. His Excellency particularly emphasized on strengthening the cooperation between SEAMEO Centers in order to promote the diversification of activities. Also during his Ha Noi visit, H.E. Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy held a meeting with Prof. Dr. Phung Xuan Nha, Minister of Education and Training to highlight the educational activities that the MOE will promote in the future.

SEAMEO RETRAC 21st Governing Board Meeting

On September 27-28, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC welcomed its governing board members to Ho Chi Minh City for the 21st Governing Board Meeting. Attending the meeting were a representative of SEAMEO Secretariat, 10 governing board members and 2 representatives from 10 countries in Southeast Asia. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Centre's activities in the past fiscal year as well as gather recommendations from our governing board members for the year ahead.

Held back to back with the meeting was an Educational Forum on “Enhancing the Satisfaction of Teachers at Basic Education in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Innovative Solutions” which served as a platform for the exchange and discussion of ideas and experiences in relation to the enhancement of teachers' satisfaction to make teaching the first choice of profession. Participating in the Forum were our governing board members and 32 educators, academic staff and lecturers from different departments of education and training, universities and colleges in Vietnam.



Educational Forum on "Enhancing the Satisfaction of Teachers at Basic Education in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Innovative Solutions"



educational quality through teaching performance. Presenting at the Forum are SEAMEO RETRAC's Governing Board Members from the Southeast Asia, and

The annual educational Forum, namely "Enhancing the Satisfaction of Teachers at Basic Education in Southeast Asia: Best Practices and Innovative Solutions", is conducted by SEAMEO RETRAC at its premises on September 27, 2018. The Forum is held back to back with the Center's 21st Governing Board

Meeting and served as a platform for the exchange and discussion of ideas and experiences in relation to the enhancement of teachers' satisfaction to make teaching the first choice of profession and thereby to develop relevant policies and/or recommendations related to improving



SEAMEO Secretariat. Participating in the Forum also includes educators, academic staff and lecturers from different departments of education and

training, universities and colleges in Vietnam.

International Conference on "Leadership and Management in Higher Education in a Globalized World: Innovations and Best Practices"

In the very first week of July 5-6, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Queens College – City University of New York (CUNY) and The HEAD Foundation in Singapore, organized the 2018 International Conference on "Leadership and Management in Higher Education in a Globalized World: Innovations and Best Practices". The Conference was once again a global platform for discussion, collaboration and intellectual exchange among educational leaders, academicians and professionals in related areas of higher education from all over the world. Essential sub-themes included Policy Leadership in Higher



Education, University – Industry Partnership Development, Quality Assurance and Research Development in Higher Education, 21st Century Skills Development in Higher Education, and others related to ICT Applications in Teaching and Leadership Management as well as Curriculum Innovation and Teaching Development in the new era of the 21st century were thoroughly presented by 3 keynote speakers from Canada and USA, 2 featured speakers from France and Singapore and other

respectful 26 speakers from different nations. Approximately, nearly 120 participants, coming from Afghanistan, Australia, Canada, France, Indonesia, Korea, the Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Taiwan, The Netherland, USA and Vietnam, fully attended the Conference and dynamically discussed thought-provoking topics with the presenters throughout two days of the Conference.

The 9th Annual International Conference on TESOL "Breakthroughs in English Language Teaching in the 21st Century"

On August 09-10, 2018, the 9th Annual International Conference on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) on "Breakthroughs in English Language Teaching in the 21st Century" was held at the Center's premises by SEAMEO RETRAC in cooperation with Curtin University, Australia.

More than 200 speakers and participants attended together with 30 presentations and 4 workshops presented at the conference by eminent researchers, lecturers and scholars around the world surrounding the four topical areas: Innovative trends and practices in ELT in the 21st century; Models of English learning outside the classroom; English as a medium of instruction; and Technology application in English language teaching and learning.

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 partake in their continuing professional development, networking and cooperation 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, contributing to the professional development for English teachers in order to successfully implement the goals of the National Foreign Languages Project, and expanding the cooperative links with regional and international countries in the field of language teaching.



In-country Training course on "Capacity Building in Leadership and Management for Educational Excellence" in Vientiane, Lao PDR

On April 10-13, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with the Institute for Educational Administration Development (IFEAD) co-conducted the in-country training course in the field of educational leadership and management. The aim of the training was to improve the capacity of trainers, provided them with mostly updated knowledge and skills in their practice. In total, 40 managers and lecturers from the IFEAD and different educational institutions from several provinces in Lao PDR fully attended the course. Training topics of the workshop included Innovations in School Leadership in the 21st Century, Innovations in Teaching and Learning, Teachers' Professional Development, and Negotiation and Conflict Management.

The Cyber Learning Program

In 2017, SEAMEO RETRAC became a member of the SEAMEO Massive Open Online Courses Network (SEAMOOCS) which was convened in Bali, Indonesia, together with selected SEAMEO Centers and open universities in the region. SEAMOOCS essentially aim to provide accessible quality education for all and to deliver capacity-building between and among countries. This has further created a strong and clear direction to bring online learning to a new dimension, to bring education to the unreached. The webinars, one important component of Cyber Learning initiative, were co-hosted by the SEAMEO RETRAC and SEAMOLEC of Indonesia to utilize their web conference system. The Center has started offering open webinars in June and July for teachers and education administrators. Open webinars are free and only require a high-speed internet or wireless

network connections, a laptop or smartphone, a set of good earphones and a simple online registration. The training topics of the webinar which was launched included:

- 1) Education Leadership and Management, and 21st century Skills webinars, June 2018
 - a. Instructional Leadership in Practice
 - b. 21st Century Attributes of School Leaders
- 2) Instructional Technology webinars, July 2018



- a. How to Build a Teaching Portfolio Online
- b. Open Teaching and Personal Learning Networks for Increased Student Engagement

The coming Cyber Learning Program will be continued in this year and targets basic education teachers. For further information, please visit the website

<http://cyberlearning.vnseameo.org/> to get information and join the courses.



Workshop on "Better Readers and Positive Psychology in English Language Classroom"

On May 28, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City organized the training workshop on "Better Readers and Positive Psychology in English Language Classroom" at its

premises. The training was facilitated by Mr. Marc Helgesen from Miyagi Gakuin Women's University, Japan. The workshop introduced different reading skills and tasks to encourage English learners to read more effectively. It also provided information and knowledge about ELT and the science of happiness and how to apply this approach to raise learners' English level. The workshop involved the participation of around 40 lecturers from colleges and universities in Ho Chi Minh city.



Training Workshop on "Differentiating Teaching Techniques and Activities in English Language Classrooms"

SEAMEO RETRAC, in partnership with Regional English Language Office, U.S. Embassy Hanoi and Public Affairs Section, U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, hosted a 2.5-day seminar on "Differentiating Teaching Techniques and Activities in English Language



Classroom" for high school English teachers on August 6-8, 2018. The seminar aimed to provide participants with updated knowledge and skills in

teaching towards communicative approach. The contents covered at the seminar included: Enhancing Learning Motivation, Adapting New/Fresh

University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP), Sponsored Professional Exchange from Afghanistan

In collaboration with the University of Massachusetts in the USA (the Afghanistan University Support and Workforce Development Program – USWDP) and under the support of a five-year USAID-funded project (2014-2018) which was implemented by FHI 360, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted an international professional exchange program featured in "University Support and Workforce Development Program (USWDP) Sponsored Professional Exchange from Afghanistan" for 23 leaders and administrators from three different higher education institutions in



Afghanistan (Herat University, Nangarhar University and Balkh University) from June 23 to July 6, 2018 in Vietnam. The overall objectives of the

program were to help the participants enhance their competence in higher educational leadership and management, focus on the operation and management of the business administration associate degree awarding programs. In addition to on-site training workshops, the participants were provided with opportunities to visit higher education institutions in Vietnam, including RMIT Vietnam and Cao Thang Technical College, to obtain hands-on experiences on the operation and management of the teaching and learning activities. They also joined in cultural visits in Southern provinces of Vietnam, organized by SEAMEO RETRAC, and attended the annual conference on "Leadership and Management in Higher Education in a Globalized World: Innovations and Best Practices", organized by the Center.

Conducting Teacher Professional Training Courses and English Proficiency Training Courses for Teachers of English in Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Dong Thap, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh Provinces

From July 16 to October 27, 2018 SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with Departments of Education and Training of Ba Ria – Vung Tau, Dong Thap, Dong Nai, Binh Duong, Binh Phuoc and Tay Ninh provinces conducts professional training courses for 435 core teachers of English and English proficiency training courses for 320 teachers of English. The professional training program consists of 3 modules: English for Teaching, ICT in Language Instruction and English Teaching Methodology. The program is

the combination between face to face and online learning through online websites Tech4Teach and My ELT designed by SEAMEO RETRAC and National Geographic Learning. The course aims to help the teachers enhance their English knowledge and teaching skills and techniques not only for their own teaching, but also for successful conduct of training workshops on these related topics for their institutions' teachers upon the completion of the course.

Materials, Designing Engaging Activities and Teaching Pronunciation. The workshop was facilitated by Ms. Jimalee Sowell, English lecturer in Indiana University of Pennsylvania, United States. Teachers shared their teaching experiences and problems on the theme. How to promote active learning in the classroom was also discussed and practiced at the Seminar.

ICT Training Workshops at SEAMEO RETRAC between April and September

From April to September 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted multiple training workshops focusing on: ICT Application in Instructional Material Development, Creating Dynamic Lectures Presentations and Gamification for Creative Teaching for participants from various institutions in Ho Chi Minh City and its neighbor provinces. The major



purpose of ICT training courses was to offer opportunities to discover and utilize cutting edge ICT applications in planning and teaching, thereby to enhance the learning and teaching effectiveness.

International Partnership for Industry Engagement Training



On April 2, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC and the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) solidified a partnership to co-develop a training program for Vietnamese university leaders to enhance their awareness of policies and practices in Industry Engagement. Industry Engagement is the process of aligning an institution's admissions, curricula, research, internships, and career services with current industry needs to better prepare recent graduates for their future careers. Enhanced industry engagement is a

critical process for Vietnamese universities aiming to align their curricula with industry needs, develop effective professionals, provide students with meaningful internships, and offer students' effective career counseling. Effective industry engagement trains more employable graduates and increases the productivity of Vietnamese professionals. SAIT is a leading capacity builder in industry engagement experienced running similar projects in rapidly developing Asian education systems.

Visit of the Delegation from Thailand's Khon Kaen University's English Department

As the Center's commitment to our local and international partners, SEAMEO RETRAC welcomes all visits to share knowledge, updates on educational related issues. On June 6, the Center welcomed 35 students and faculties from Khon Kaen University's English Department at the Center's premises.



During the information session hosted by the Center's BOD, Thai delegates had been updated on the mission and operation of SEAMEO and SEAMEO RETRAC. Current issues on language training also be mentioned and discussed actively. The delegations

were very interested in how the Center's training programs response to the current needs and the growth of society. Both institutions came up with the discussion on collaboration possibilities on training, internship and staff exchange programs.

Visit of the delegates from Flinders University, Australia

On August 14, 2018, delegates from Flinders University, Australia headed by Dr. Michael Bell, International Engagement Coordinator, paid a visit to

SEAMEO RETRAC to discuss future partnership. Flinders University has shown significant interests in projects related to social changes in parts of Asia and wished to expand the university's influence within Vietnam, especially in Ho Chi Minh City. After the discussion, SEAMEO RETRAC and Flinders University expected to start the



partnership through a leadership and management course.

Visit of the delegates from Curtin University, Australia

On September 19, 2018, delegates from Curtin University, Australia headed by Prof. Rhonda Oliver, Head of School, paid a visit to SEAMEO RETRAC to discuss our current partnership and the potential to move forward. After the discussion, SEAMEO RETRAC and Curtin University



resolved some of the occurring issues during the course of our current

partnership and highlighted some aspects, which can strengthen our bond.

The Closing Ceremony of Summer Fun 2018

On July 20, 2018, the Closing Ceremony of Summer Fun 2018 was successfully organized by Kiddy Programs - SEAMEO RETRAC with the participation of nearly 200 students, parents, Summer Fun instructors and Kiddy programs staff.

During the ceremony, students had a great number of opportunities to enjoy or participate in some great musical and artistic performances which they had learned including music and dances, storytelling, playacting, fashion shows and quizzes. At the ceremony, each student received a certificate of course completion by SEAMEO RETRAC and Queens College, New York, USA and took lots of photos with their teachers and friends.



SEAMEO RETRAC Summer Program in the U.S 2018

From July 10 to August 5, 2018, 11 students of SEAMEO RETRAC Summer Program in the U.S spent four interesting weeks entertaining and studying in California State and St. Croix Lutheran High School in Minnesota State.

This program helps students not only

improve their language skills but also explore the diversity of the U.S culture, make new friends from all over the world and comprehensively develop themselves through various group activities and soft-skill training sessions. Attending the program, the students also had various valuable experiences of the life of students in the U.S, which will help them develop better orientation for their future study pathway.



UPCOMING EVENTS

October 9-12, 2018

International Training Course on "Capacity Building on Leadership and Management in Higher Education" for Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam

October 18-19, 2018

Training workshop on "Experience and Solutions of Asian Countries in Creating Environment for School Students to Use English"

October 28, 2018

Halloween Activities

October 29-November 2, 2018

Training Course on "Quality Assurance for Higher Education Institutions in Vietnam"

November 12, 2018

Commencement of the Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) - Intake 17

November 20, 2018

Celebrating the Vietnamese Teachers' Day at SEAMEO RETRAC

November 29-30, 2018

Training Course on "Scientific Research Paper Writing for Higher Education Academics"

December 10-11, 2018

Training Workshop on "English Medium Instruction (EMI) in Vietnam"

December 23, 2018

Christmas Activities

December 2018

Training Course on "Branding in Higher Education"

December 2018

Forum on "Soft Skills and 21st Century Skills Teaching Experience Sharing"



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