SEAMEO RETRAC





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 $35\ \mbox{Le}$ Thanh Ton st. HCM city, Vietnam.

Tel: (84.28) 38 32174 - 38245618 - **Fax**: (84.28) 38232175

Email: contact@vnseameo.org

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National Orientation Workshop on "ECCE Teacher Competency Framework in Southeast Asia"

the funding from the UNESCO-Bangkok and was selected by the SEAMEO Secretariat as an Implementing Agency for piloting the adaption of the Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Teacher Competency Framework for Southeast Asia, SEAMEO RETRAC convened a national orientation workshop on "ECCE Teacher Competency Framework in Southeast Asia" on November 8, 2018. The aims of the workshop were to identify adaptation options in the different levels/users, to adapt and contextualise the sub-regional framework into the Vietnamese context.

Participating in the workshop were nearly 60 representatives from the SEAMEO Secretariat and different provincial departments of education and training, and selected ECCE schools in Vietnam.



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

With the aim of providing the participants with knowledge and skills related to competencies in leadership and management in higher education while creating a professional platform for discussion of ideas, exchange of experience and development of networks among participants and trainers, the international training course on "Capacity building on leadership and management in higher education" was



conducted at the Center's premises on October 9-12, 2018. Participating in the course were more than 30 leaders and administrators of different higher education institutions in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. Trainers of the course included professionals from SEAMEO

RETRAC, the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE) and College of the Rockies in Canada. Topics of discussion covered at the training course were leadership innovations for higher education, leading change and improvement in higher education,



professional development, and conflict management and negotiations in higher education.

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

SEAMEO Regional Training Center in collaboration with the National Foreign Languages Project co-organised the International Training Workshop on "Experience and Solutions of Asian Countries in Creating Environment for School Students to Use English" on October 18-19, 2018 in Da Lat City, Lam Dong Province. At the training



workshop, speakers and participants actively participated in presentations and discussions on experience and solutions of Asian countries in creating environment for school students to use English in and outside the classroom. Particularly, the focus of the workshop was on current situations, challenges and solutions, and successful models/good practices of creating environments for English learning and using in and outside the classroom in Vietnam and in some Asian countries. In addition, management and strategic orientation for the implementation of these models across schools in Vietnam was also included in the discussion.

The workshop was facilitated by invited international speakers from South Korea, Japan, the Philippines, Thailand, the United States and Vietnam. About 100 participants, who were provincial English specialists, high school leaders and teachers, from 47 provinces across the country attended the workshop.

Seminar on "Task-based Language Teaching" by Prof. Rod Ellis from Curtin University, Australia

On November 23, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC in cooperation with Curtin University organised a seminar on "Task-based Language Teaching". This is one of the professional development activities for the alumni and students of

the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics jointly offered by Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC. Professor Rod Ellis, a renowned researcher, currently a Research Professor in the School of Education, Curtin University in Perth, Australia conducted the seminar which attracted more than 150 teachers/lecturers of English from Ho Chi Minh City and other provinces.



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



Under the funding from the International Network for Quality Assurance Agencies in Higher Education (INQAAHE), SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a five day training course on "Internal Quality Assurance for Higher Education Institutions in Vietnam" on October 29 – November 2, 2018 at the Center. Participating in the course were 31 attendees who were leaders and senior administrators being responsible for quality assurance of 17 higher education

institutions across Vietnam. The course aimed at improving and enhancing the competence of participants in higher education quality assurance, particularly in developing an internal quality assurance system at their own institutions. The training project included three phases, including face to face training, online coaching and survey on the impacts of training on the beneficiaries' performance on internal quality assurance at their institutions.

Commencement of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics, Intake 17

Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC commenced the 17th intake of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics program on November 12, 2018. Enrolled in this intake were 33 teachers of English from the U.S.A., the Philippines and Vietnam.

The first workshop of Intake 17 was conducted from November 12–15, 2018. The next three workshops will be sequentially conducted in February, July, and November of 2019.



Following this event, the students of the Intake 16 participated in their final workshop of the program from November 19–22, 2018. These students are expected to graduate in August, 2019.

This program has effectively contributed to the development of human resources for English language teaching in Vietnam and the region.

Opening Ceremony of Training Courses on "Innovative Approaches in Teaching Content Areas in English" for Lecturers of Viet Nam National University – Ho Chi Minh City

The SEAMEO Regional Training Center (SEAMEO RETRAC) in collaboration with Viet Nam National University – Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCMC) conducted 02 training courses on "Innovative Approaches in Teaching Content Areas in English" for 64 lecturers of VNU-HCMC from November 9 to December 30, 2018. The program combined both face-to-face and online

learning through Tech4Teach, a website designed by SEAMEO RETRAC. The two courses aimed to update participants with contemporary approaches, techniques, and practices in teaching content areas in English. Simultaneously, these courses also

assisted learners in designing and creating classroom activities to engage students in active learning, and informed them about the available technologies for designing learning materials and teaching.



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

SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Institute for Water Education auspices under the UNESCO (IHE DELFT-The Netherland), conducted a two day training workshop on "Scientific Research Paper Writing Skills for Higher Education Academics" on November 29-30, 2018. The aim of the workshop was to help teaching and academic staff of Vietnamese higher education institutions enhancing their competence in developing a scientific research paper for publishing purposes through equipping them with knowledge and skills in paper writing. Participants of the workshop included about 50 professionals and academics of different higher education institutions in the south of Vietnam.



Training Workshop on "English as a Medium of Instruction in Higher Education"

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with University of South Australia co-organised an international workshop on "English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) in Higher Education" on December 10-11, 2018 at the Center's premises. This workshop is among a series of activities of the project "Institutional links to address issues in higher education in Vietnam", sponsored by Australia-ASEAN Council and Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Participants of the workshop were administrators and lecturers from 21 universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and neighboring provinces. At the workshop, participants shared experience and learned about issues

related to EMI such as curriculum design, EMI pedagogy, assessment, opportunities and challenges in Vietnamese context.

On this occasion, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by SEAMEO RETRAC and University of South Australia to set a foundation for long-term and sustainable collaboration between the 2 institutions in the coming years.





Training Course on "Branding in Higher Education"

With the aim of helping universities and colleges in successfully develop effective strategies for their institutions' brand development, the training course on "Branding in Higher Education" was conducted at SEAMEO RETRAC's premises within two days on December 26-27, 2018. The issues discussed in the course included: Concepts and

Definitions on Brand and Branding, Roles and Benefits of Branding, Relevant Strategies and Tools for Developing Brand in Higher Education Institutions. Participants of the training course were administrators and officers who were responsible for or interested in developing brands at higher education institutions across Vietnam.



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Halloween Activities at SEAMEO RETRAC

Between 28 and 30 October, 2018 a lot of exciting activities were organised by Kiddy Programs for more than 2,500 students to celebrate the Halloween festival at SEAMEO RETRAC.

Based on some histories and norms around the Halloween tradition, a ghost town corner was set up for our students so that they can understand and experience this international festival while enjoying the ghostly atmosphere.



Students of all levels together with our teachers partook in activities to decorate their own Halloween masks with crayon colors, colored paper and craft,

"trick-or-treat" candy bag. These activities offered students opportunities to develop their creativity and imagination.



Celebrating the Vietnamese Teachers' Day

On November 20, 2018, SEAMEO RETRAC celebrated Vietnamese Teachers' Day with a joyous celebration at the Center for all staff and teachers. 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 years. During the celebration, the Center's Director granted the SEAMEO RETRAC Teaching Award to 6 teachers who had excellente teaching performance in 2018. The celebration concluded with musical performances, games, and prizes which made it meaningful and memorable.

Christmas Activities at SEAMEO RETRAC

On December 22, 24, and 25, 2018 a lot of exciting activities were organised by Kiddy Programs to celebrate the Christmas Day at SEAMEO RETRAC.

The Christmas tree and symbols of this holiday such as artificial snow, bells, colorful ornaments was set up so that children can take photos while enjoying the festive atmosphere. As a crucial role in this kind of holiday, a Santa Claus came to the center with a full bag of presents for all the students.



UPCOMING EVENTS

January 05 - 12, 2019

Opening Ceremony of the English Teaching Methodology Training Workshops for Lecturers of University of Science – Ho Chi Minh City

January 16-18, 2019

Training Workshop on "Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Applications in Student Assessment and Evaluation"

January 24, 2019

The Annual Faculty Meeting of the Division of Foreign Studies

January 08 - June 27, 2019

Opening Ceremony of the Communicative English Training Courses for Staffs of Platinum Global in Ho Chi Minh City

February 25-28, 2019

Workshop 2 Master of Arts (Applied Linguistics) - Intake 17

February 26 - March 1, 2019

Trainer Training Course on "Soft-skills Teaching - Module 2"

March 8, 2019

Activities to Celebrate the International Women's Day