

SEAMEO RETRAC



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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER
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Training Course on “Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Implementation”

On June 24-25, 2020, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a training course on “Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Implementation” for 18 leaders and senior administrators from various universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and other provinces. The course was aimed at improving and enhancing the participants’ competence to improve their performance on quality assurance at their institutions.

During the course, participants

were provided with knowledge of assessment activities based on the standards of the MOET, AUN-QA, ABET; and assessment activities in terms of institutional level according to the standards



The Communicative English Training Course for Social Entrepreneurs

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City organized a “Communicative English Training Course for Social Entrepreneurs” from November 13, 2019 to July 29, 2020. This was a scholarship program for individuals from social organizations that are working to promote gender equality and improve the lives of children, people with disabilities, the poor, and so on. The program was designed to help learners communicate with foreign partners confidently and enrich vocabulary on various topics so as to improve the effectiveness of their social work and serving communities.

On August 24, 2020, SEAMEO RETRAC held a Closing Ceremony and presented certificate of completion to 21 participants. Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Center Director, attended the event

to congratulate participants on their completion of the course. On this occasion, Dr. Phuong also expressed her gratitude towards the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City and the American

Center for offering the grant and collaborating with SEAMEO RETRAC to organize the course.



Training Course on “Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Online Learning Management”

With the aims of equipping participants with the use of innovative ICT applications currently used in managing online learning platforms, a training course on “ICT Applications in Online Learning Management” was organized by SEAMEO RETRAC from August 20-21, 2020. Participating in the course were 08 lecturers and academic staff who are interested in the course from

various institutions in Ho Chi Minh City and its nearby provinces. In the course, ICT applications introduced

to participants included Byndr LMS, CourseSites, MylCourse, Canvas, and ZoomLearn, etc.



Workshops “Decode IELTS Reading” and “Gaining Academic Words for IELTS Speaking and Writing Tasks”

On August 7 and September 8, 2020, respectively, SEAMEO RETRAC organized two workshops for students of Adult Training Programs. These two workshops not only offered attendees an insight into the IELTS examination but also help to brainstorm the necessary skills and knowledge needed to achieve better results. At these workshops, students had the opportunity to practice and enhance their Speaking, Writing, and Reading skills. Moreover, attendees were all delighted that

they could bring home valuable tips as well as 100+ academic

words to boost their confidence when coming to the IELTS exam.



Parents' Forum on “Learning English Path at SEAMEO RETRAC”

The Parents' Forum on “Learning English Path at SEAMEO RETRAC” was successfully held at the Center's premises by Kiddy Programs on July 05, 2020, with the attendance of nearly 150 parents whose children are now studying at SEAMEO RETRAC. This special event organized by Kiddy Programs aims at both providing parents with a better understanding of Cambridge English Qualifications (Starters, Movers, Flyers, KET, PET, IELTS, ...) that are widely



used in HCM city schools and giving recommendations on the appropriate time to help their children prepare for these tests. Besides, a clear path of studying

English from kindergartens to higher education at SEAMEO RETRAC was also introduced in this event.

Training Course on “Soft-Skills Training-Module 1”

A training course on “Soft-Skills Training - Module 1” was conducted on July 28-31, 2020 by SEAMEO RETRAC to provide the participants with knowledge and skills on effectively teaching soft skills to university students. Also, the course provided participants with plenty of opportunities for discussions and debates on potential approaches for trainers to train their own students in the most manner at their institutions.

The participants included 10 lecturers, soft-skills trainers and leaders of Youth Association and Unions of

universities and colleges in Vietnam. Four topics discussed within

four days of the course include:

(1) Goal Setting and Team Building

(2) Effective Communication
(3) Conflict Resolution, And
(4) Negotiation Skills.



Summer Discovery 2020

SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized Summer Discovery 2020 with the participation of about 130 students from July 20 to August 14, 2020 at the Center's premises. Summer Discovery is an extra-curricular activity designed for children aged from 07 to 15. Participating in Summer Discovery 2020, Students not only developed their four language skills but also had an opportunity to enhance other skills through such interesting topics as exploring countries in the world, the nature, the universe, and life skills. 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 improve cultural awareness, and develop their confidence

in daily communication, their creativeness and teamwork spirit. In addition to classroom activities, students were offered a chance to learn social and practical knowledge through outdoor activities.

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RESPONSE TO COVID-19

With the emerging threat of Covid-19 pandemic, SEAMEO RETRAC has taken swift action to ensure the safety of our students and staff. Some of our immediate responses since early January 2020 are as follow:



Public Support

- ➡ Provide sanitary kits
- ➡ Give free face masks
- ➡ Conduct thermal test
- ➡ Set up hygiene stations
- ➡ Run awareness campaign
- ➡ Open free Webinars through Cyberlearning platform



Education

- ➡ Offer e-Learning, training free of charge
- ➡ Host series of Webinar through Cyber Learning
- ➡ Online test and supports for ESL students and teachers
- ➡ Engage working and learning from home
- ➡ Train staff on procedure and prevention method



Managerial Action during social distancing

- ➡ Conduct regular virtual meeting on Zoom, WebEx, Google Meet, Skype to manage business operation
- ➡ Rotation of staff in each department to minimize the risks of spreading
- ➡ Schedule routine disinfection



Upcoming Events

September 11-25, 2020

English Teacher Training Courses of the National Foreign Languages Project in Vinh Long, Dong Nai, Dong Thap and Tien Giang Provinces

September 29-30, 2020

Training course on "Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications on Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content"

October 01, 2020

Educational Webinar on "Innovative Solutions to Achieve Quality, Equity and Inclusiveness in Education in Southeast Asia"

October 20-23, 2020

Capacity-Building Workshop on "Strengthening Global Citizenship for Sustainable Development"

November 09, 2020

Commencement of MA in Applied Linguistics - Intake 19

November 17-18, 2020

Training Course on "Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Implementation"

November 24-27, 2020

Training Course on "Soft-Skills Training – Module 3"

November 27, 2020

International Virtual Conference on TESOL: English Language Teaching in the Era of Globalization 4.0: Embracing Challenges and Innovations

December 3-4, 2020

International Symposium "Advancing Knowledge and Skills in Teaching English in Industry 4.0 Among the TESOL Practitioners in Vietnam"

December 15, 2020

Forum for Parents at Children's Program

December 20, 2020

Workshop for Students: "How to Develop Learning Strategies for Attaining High Scores of IELTS"

December 22-23, 2020

Training Course on "Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Student Assessment and Evaluation"



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