

SEAMEO RETRAC

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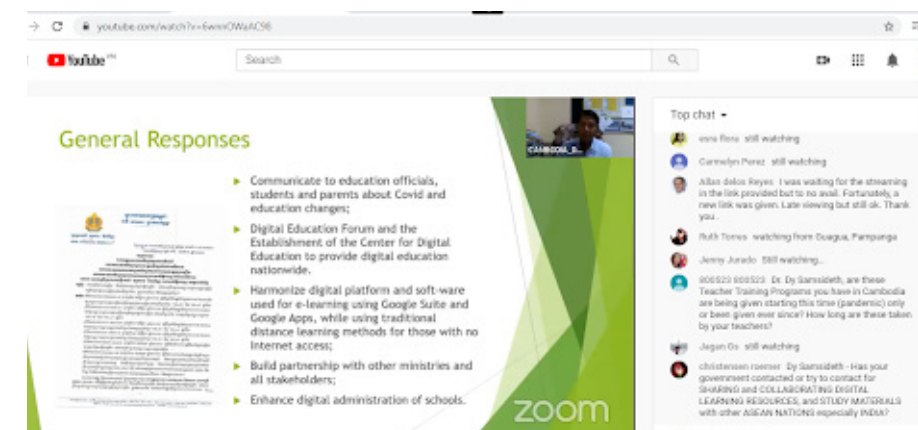
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Virtual Training Course on “ICT Applications in Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content”

On January 28-30, 2021, a virtual training course on “*ICT Applications in Foreign Language Teaching through the Integration of Multimedia Content*” was organized by SEAMEO RETRAC for a group of lecturers, and academic staff from the department of foreign languages and teachers from foreign language centers of different universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and its nearby provinces. With the aim of providing participants with

opportunities to experience online learning while sharpening their computing skills in applying innovative ICT tools in teaching foreign languages, the course was



designed to be conducted on Zoom platform and SEAMEO RETRAC’s Moodle site.

During the first two days of the training course, participants

were introduced to ICT apps and supplementary websites assisting them to design and edit pictures, sounds and videos as well as to create games, quizzes and tests in assessing students’ understanding during the lesson. On day 3, participants joined the Moodle site to freely access the training materials, reply to the trainer’s discussion questions and practice using ICT tools in their lesson.

Communicative English Training Course for Staff of Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City

SEAMEO RETRAC, jointly conducted with Vietnam National University–HCMC, held the Closing Ceremony of the Communicative English training course for 24 staff of Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City on March 05, 2021. The course, started on Dec 02, 2020 and ended on Mar 05, 2021, was designed to help not only improve participants’ English language communication skills, familiarize with the format of emails, letters and reports writing,

but also reinforce necessary skills such as presentation and group discussion. Simultaneously, the course assisted participants to be more confident and fluent in using English at work.



Journal Article: “Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Southeast Asia: Key Issues and Policy Recommendations”

A journal article titled “*Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Southeast Asia: Key Issues and Policy Recommendations*” was published on VNU Journal of Science: Education Research in March, 2021. The article is taken from the research project titled “*Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Southeast Asia*”, a SEAMEO’s inter-center collaborative project, with SEAMEO RETRAC as a lead center. The article presents the key issues affecting the level of job satisfaction among basic education teachers in

Southeast Asia and provides policy recommendations to increase teacher motivation and job satisfaction. The study employs Herzberg’s Dual Factor Theory of Motivation: Hygiene factor and motivator factor. Online surveys, group discussions and a forum of educational administrators from all Southeast Asian countries are instruments used to collect data.

The published journal article and the research project are significant contributions of SEAMEO RETRAC to the investigation of theoretical and practical issues in educational management in Vietnam and Southeast Asia.

The journal article can be accessed from the link: <https://js.vnu.edu.vn/ER/article/view/4438>



SEAMEO Centers Policy Research Network (CPRN) Virtual Summit and First Chevron-SEAMEO Research Workshop for Strengthening Regional STEM Education in Southeast Asia

SEAMEO Secretariat convened the SEAMEO CPRN Virtual Summit on March 10, 2021, organized back-to-back with the First Chevron-SEAMEO Research Workshop for Strengthening Regional STEM Education in Southeast Asia on March 11-12, 2021. The consecutive events served as a platform for SEAMEO Centers/Network and partners to update trends on policy research, share ongoing activities with other Centers, and revisit activities plan agreed in last SEAMEO CPRN Symposium in 2019.

Participants attended these events consisting of SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centers and its university partners and educational organizations, Chevron, UNICEF, UNESCO, KEDI, KICE and ASEAN Secretariat...

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, SEAMEO RETRAC Center Director presented a paper sharing updates on related research findings, challenges, lessons learned and policy recommendations withdrew



Workshop on "Listening Strategies for IELTS"

On Sunday, March 14, 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully held the "Listening Strategies for IELTS" workshop for more than 20 participants in HCMC.

At the workshop, Ms. Lori Ann Shea, a Master of Applied Linguistics at Curtin University in Australia with 6 years of teaching experiences and

also the workshop's facilitator, introduced the necessary skills needed for IELTS Listening test including prediction, note-taking, paraphrasing, dealing with distractors to the attendees, as well as listed common mistakes which make students lose points. Real exam questions were also provided so that those who attended the workshop can easily visualize what they will encounter when taking a

from SEAMEO RETRAC Inter-Center Collaborative Projects.

The SEAMEO CPRN was firstly introduced as a component of the SEAMEO College, a project launched in 2013. The Network is established to enhance the relevance and sharpen the responsiveness of SEAMEO Centers and the Secretariat to the needs of education leaders for policy research to address regional human resource development issues in Southeast Asia.



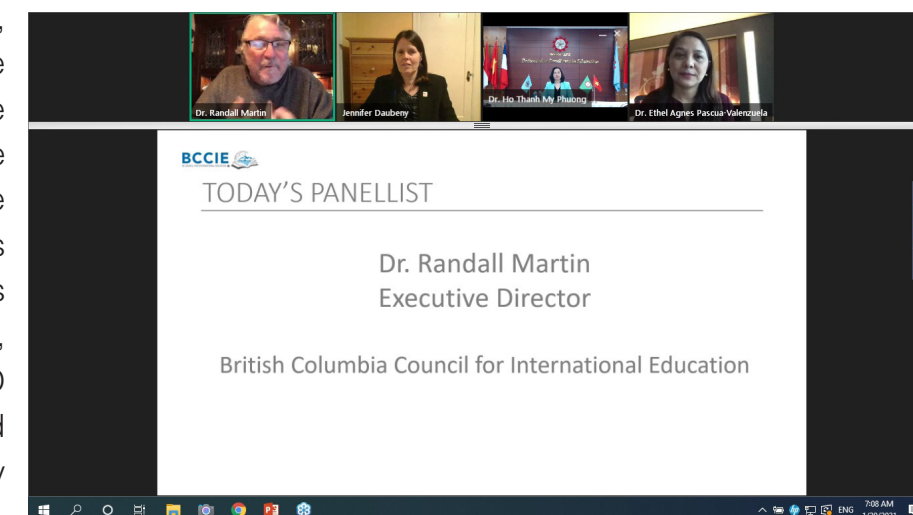
SEAMEO and BCCIE Partnership Event

SEAMEO Secretariat, in collaboration with the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada hosted a partnership event on March 17-18, 2021 to introduce SEAMEO and its regional centers to the international education sectors in British Columbia (BC) including K-12, post-secondary, and language institutions. The objective of this event was to provide an initial platform to explore international partnerships and collaboration possibilities between BC's institutions, school districts and SEAMEO Centers and affiliated institutions. During the 2-day

B2B meeting sessions at the event, SEAMEO RETRAC had insisted on its commitment to promote international education, science and culture through partnership and collaboration, focusing on the Center's mission and functions.

BCCIE has been one of the strategic partners of SEAMEO RETRAC since 2006 and

officially becomes a SEAMEO's Affiliate Member in 2020. As an affiliate member, BCCIE aims to act as an intermediary between SEAMEO's 26 regional Centers and BC's institutions and school districts in support of activities relating to SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas.



Workshop on "Use of ICT Tools in the Classroom"

On March 28, 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a workshop on "Use of ICT Tools in the Classroom" for 18 native and Vietnamese teachers of English at the Center. The session was facilitated by Dr. Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang – Deputy Dean of Divisions of Foreign Studies. The workshop aimed at introducing participants to a

number of available ICT tools for English language teaching so that the teachers can apply to design and conduct their lessons to engage students in their class activities. Strategies

on the integration of ICT in teaching were also discussed to encourage the exchange of pedagogical methodologies, practices and practical classroom experiences.



Virtual Networking Session with Representatives from the Embassy of New Zealand and Partners

On Feb 26, 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a virtual networking session with representatives of the Embassy of New Zealand in Hanoi and Auckland

University of Technology (AUT), New Zealand to discuss collaboration opportunities in the field of education and educational leadership and management as well as to connect with other professionals in the field of higher education in both countries. During the meeting, information regarding COVID-19 policy

in New Zealand and Vietnam were shared. While the world pandemic restricts face-to-face international training programs, SEAMEO RETRAC and its partners continuously make effort to delivering innovative and quality online training programs in various forms for Vietnam and the region.

Celebrating International Women's Day

In a series of activities to celebrate the 111th Anniversary of the International Women's Day and the event "Vietnam Ao dai Week", a campaign held by Vietnam Central Women's Union to praise the beauty of Vietnamese women in the traditional dress, SEAMEO RETRAC Labor Union organized a trip to Ao Dai Museum at Long Thuan Ward, District 9, Ho Chi Minh

City for all staff of the Center on March 08, 2021. The trip not only provided participants with better understanding about the history of Vietnamese traditional long dress (Ao dai), but also filled with multiple exciting and meaningful group activities such as Ao dai catwalk, sewing mini Ao dai and making "Sticky Rice Dumpling" ... While this annual activity was a memorable experience, it also contributed to strengthening the solidarity among the staff.

Furthermore, in the celebration of the International Women's Day (March 8), SEAMEO RETRAC also organized many meaningful in-class activities for students such as decorating flower cards with crayons, writing wishes in English, and making colorful flower pots and flower pop-up cards. These activities aimed at helping students understand the true meaning of this international event and to show gratitude to their beloved women and family members.



English Speaking Club

The English Speaking Club (ESC) is a free community activity hosted by Division of Foreign Studies, SEAMEO RETRAC, that provides the English learning community with a comfortable, relaxing, and effective English speaking environment. From January to March 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized 4 club meetings for more than 60 participants with up-to-date and current topics, meeting the needs of English learners such as "How was your 2020?", "Customs and

Superstitions", "Legends and Myths", and "Is Math fun?".

Besides, the club members learned how to deliver a good presentation, how to attract listeners by utilizing visual, audio, verbal and non-verbal elements of their speech. After each presentation, participants received detailed comments from the facilitator,

showing them how to maintain eye contact with the audience and effectively perform body language. With the desire to develop educational activities, the Center will continue to host attractive and practical topics to meet the needs of the community in improving English ability and communication skills.



UPCOMING EVENTS

April 22-23, 2021

Training Course on "ICT Applications in Gamification on Creative Teaching"

April 27-29, 2021

Training Course on "Soft-Skills Training – Module 4"

May 25-26, 2021

Training Course on "Grant Proposal Writing Skills"

May 27-28, 2021

Regional Workshop "Enhancing Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education in South East Asia through Innovative Educational Leadership and Management"

June 22-25, 2021

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

July 29-30, 2021

International Conference 2021 on "Global Leadership and Management in Higher Education: Innovations and Best Practices"

April - August, 2021

Webinar Series on Teaching Methodology for English Teachers in Vietnam