

SEAMEO RETRAC



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Special Program for Young Learners: Summer Discovery 2022

From July 4 to August 12, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC organized the special English program “Summer Discovery 2022” for children from six to fifteen years old. The full-time course was aimed at immersing young learners in an English-speaking environment with the content and language-integrated learning approach.

During six weeks, learners studied English and other subjects including Science, Technology, Arts & Crafts, and Physical Education in the target language. Project-based learning enabled them to improve presentation, information technology, and teamwork skills.

Training Course on “Information
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Training Course on “Innovative Teaching
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Training course on “Innovative Teaching
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Training Course on “Innovative Teaching
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UniSA Study Tour of the University of South
Australia at SEAMEO RETRAC

Regional Training Course on “Capacity
Building in Higher Education Leadership
and Management” for Cambodia, Lao PDR,
Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam

Additionally, they had a chance
to learn about the natural
world through extra-curricular
activities such as participating
in team-building, the cultural
fair, making pizzas, and

experiencing agricultural work
at the farm.

At the end of the program,
the young learners had
developed higher confidence

in communication in both
academic and daily-life
contexts. They also enjoyed an
unforgettable summer with good
fun and healthy friendships.



International Conference 2022 on “Innovative Leadership and Management in Higher Education: Global Trends and Practices in the Post COVID-19 Pandemic”

On July 07-08, 2022,
in collaboration with the
British Columbia Council for
International Education (BCCIE,
Canada), under the sponsor of
Capilano University, Canada,
SEAMEO RETRAC organized
the virtual International
Conference 2022 on “Innovative
Leadership and Management

in Higher Education: Global
Trends and Practices in the
Post COVID-19 Pandemic”
via the Zoom platform. The
Conference aimed at creating a
global platform for discussion,
collaboration, and intellectual
exchange among educational
leaders, academicians, and
professionals in areas of higher
education from all over the
world.

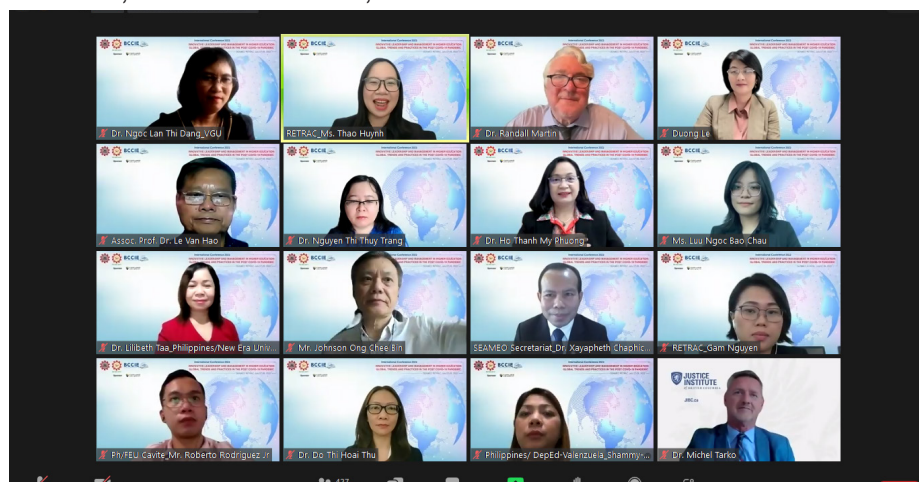
Objectives of this Conference
were to help participants update
and exchange information
about best practices and
effective innovations in
leadership and management
in higher education, while
exploring innovative ideas and
practices related to educational

leadership innovation, quality
assurance and accreditation,
curriculum and research
development, teaching and
learning in the post-pandemic,
digital technologies in teaching
and learning, and global
partnership and transnational
education.

SEAMEO RETRAC was
privileged to welcome the
participation of keynote
speakers coming from
different countries, including
Dr. Michel Tarko, President
& CEO, Justice Institute of
British Columbia, Canada; Dr.
Colin Doerr, Director, External
Relations, British Columbia
Council for International
Education, Canada; Dr. Joyce

Teo Siew Yean, Assistant Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Global Affairs), Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam; and Mr. Johnson Ong Chee Bin, Founder, Principal Consultant, Education Quality International (EQI), Singapore. The Conference was also attended by 800 participants coming from different higher education institutions in such countries as Cambodia, Lao

PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, United States of America, and Indonesia, Thailand, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the



SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting 2022

The SEAMEO Center Directors Meeting (CDM) 2022 was convened on July 26-27, 2022 in Avani Sukhumvit Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok. The annual SEAMEO CDM serves as a platform for the Center Directors and senior officers of 26 SEAMEO Regional Centers/Network to share and discuss regional development programs and work plans for improving education, science, and culture for the Southeast Asian region, as well as a venue for expanding the collaborative programs with new partners and strengthening existing partnerships.

A total of 33 Working Papers, 15 from the SEAMEO Secretariat and 18 from SEAMEO Centers/



Network, were presented through an ad-referendum. Highlights of CDM 2022 included the Diplomatic Briefing on SEAMEO's Strategic Plans and Action Agenda 2021-2025 on July 25, and the Networking Session with SEAMEO Affiliate Members and Partners on July 27.

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Center Director of SEAMEO RETRAC,

presented the Working Paper titled "Report of the ICC Regional Workshop on "Enhancing Inclusive and Equitable Quality Education in Southeast Asia through Innovative Education Leadership and Management", updating the Meeting on the key results of the said activity held on May 12-13, 2022, in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, with the hybrid approach.

English Clubs at SEAMEO RETRAC

From July to December 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized 13 English clubs for all English learners inside and outside the Center. The clubs aim to create an English-speaking environment for the participants as well as provide them with useful knowledge to improve their English language skills. The clubs provided a variety of topics, such as "IELTS Speaking:



Improving your vocabulary", "Famous Places in Vietnam", "Advancing your Pronunciation: Linking and Difficult Sounds", "Improving Your IELTS Reading Score", "Enhancing Fluency and Coherence for IELTS Speaking", and "Christmas 2022". The English clubs attracted a total attendance of 379 English learners.

Training Workshop on Understanding Research And Academic Writing

SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) and the U.S Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City, has successfully conducted the training workshop on Understanding Research and Academic Writing for 38 lecturers from 18 universities, colleges and language centers southern provinces of Vietnam from August 15 to 19, 2022.

The training workshop was delivered by Dr. Ivan Eubanks, RELO's English language



specialist from the University College of the Cayman Island. The workshop sessions help participants improve their knowledge of scientific research, improve their skills in writing scientific articles, become familiar with the general conventions of scientific journals in English, and gain knowledge of the submission of scientific articles and the review process of scientific journals.

Field Teaching Practices for School Teachers of English in Tra Vinh, Vinh Long, Tien Giang, Kien Giang, An Giang and Tay Ninh Provinces

Within the plan of teacher training program of the National Foreign Languages Project in 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC has collaborated with Departments of Education and Training of Tra Vinh, Vinh Long, Tien Giang, Kien Giang, An Giang and Tay Ninh provinces to conduct field teaching practices for more than 800 teachers at local primary and secondary schools from September 19th to October

18th, 2022.

The field teaching practices aim to assist teachers in applying the knowledge and skills on English teaching methodology that they gained from the training course in order to deliver more effective lessons within the new national English language curriculum. Simultaneously, this provides them with opportunities not only to enhance their own teaching



skills and techniques, but also share their teaching experiences to improve the quality of teaching English language in their contexts, and successfully conduct training workshops on the related topics in the training program for their institutions' teachers upon the completion of the course.

Visit of the SEAMEO Secretariat Delegation to SEAMEO RETRAC for the SEAMEO Benchmarking Program in Vietnam

On August 22, 2022, under the SEAMEO Benchmarking Program to strengthen educational, cultural, and social bonds as well as broaden perspectives and build up knowledge about SEAMEO Regional Centers, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a group of the SEAMEO Secretariat's staff in their mission visit to Vietnam in August 2022.

Representatives from the SEAMEO Secretariat, including program officers, administrative assistants, human resources officers, etc., had meaningful learning and sharing discussions with SEAMEO RETRAC's Board of Directors and officers on the Center's mission, functions, and operational protocols. On

this occasion, the SEAMEO Secretariat delegation also paid a visit to learn more about the training facilities, departments, and divisions at SEAMEO RETRAC, as well as exchange experiences with other staff and officers of the Center.



Educational Forum on "Practices and Solutions to Sustain the Quality of Education in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic in Southeast Asia"

In the afternoon of September 29, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC organized the Educational Forum on "Practices and Solutions to Sustain the Quality of Education in the Post-COVID-19 Pandemic in Southeast Asia" in the hybrid mode, back-to-back with the Center's Governing Board Meeting in Cam Ranh City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. The Forum focused on creating a professional platform for educational leaders, educators, scientists,

researchers, educational staff, and governmental officials in different countries, not only to be updated with information about current practices and solutions to critical challenges in educational leadership and management, teaching, and learning but also to exchange and share expertise and experience in policy innovations currently implemented in Southeast Asia in the post-COVID-19 pandemic.

Speakers of the Forum included Governing Board Members of

SEAMEO RETRAC who are from the Ministries of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, and the SEAMEO Secretariat.

Attending the Forum via the Zoom platform and YouTube Live were about 100 leaders, education managers, lecturers, and teachers from countries in Southeast Asia.



SEAMEO RETRAC 25th Governing Board Meeting

SEAMEO RETRAC held its 25th Governing Board Meeting on September 29-30, 2022, at Cam Ranh City, Khanh Hoa Province, Vietnam. The purpose of the Meeting was to review the Center's operations in FY 2021/2022 and gather recommendations from Governing Board Members for the Center's Action Plan for the next FY 2022/2023.

Attending the Meeting were Governing Board Members, Substitute Member of SEAMEO RETRAC, and

Observer from Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries, including the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as the Director of SEAMEO

Secretariat. During the meeting, the Governing Board Members highly appreciated the Center's results and contributions over the past year; at the same time, give direction for the operation of the Center in the following years.



Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Graduation Ceremony for Intakes 17, 18, and 19

On November 15, 86 students of three intakes 17, 18 & 19 of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program, jointly organized by Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC, celebrated their graduation. So far, the program has enrolled over 800 students in 21 intakes with the 21st intake just commencing in October 2022. The 22nd intake will continue to accept

applications and will begin in July 2023. With 700 graduates, this is a successful training program that is effectively contributing to the development of human

resources for English language teaching in Vietnam and the South East Asian region.



ELT Workshops and Alumni Reception for the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program

SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Curtin University, hosted two ELT Workshops and a reception for Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics alumni on November 15, 2022. The ELT workshops focused on two main topics: (1) Peer Interaction by Professor Rhonda Oliver from Curtin University, Australia, and (2) Becoming ESL Qualitative Researchers by Dr. Nur Sofurah Mohd Faiz, Dr. Maziana Mohamed, and Dr. Anizam Mohamed Yusof from Faculty

of Technical and Vocational Education, Universiti Tun Hussein Onn Malaysia, Malaysia. This provided an opportunity for approximately 30 participants to connect with the university and with one another, as well as to stay current on the development of the university, the program, and the profession.

The Alumni Reception was held at the Palace Saigon Hotel in the evening of the same day. Around 70 MA alumni from the first and most recent intakes, as well as program lecturers, attended the reception. The alumni came from various provinces in Vietnam. The goal of this event was to keep the University and graduates connected while also strengthening the



network among graduates. The graduates also shared their experiences, success stories, and professional development at the reception. This was an excellent opportunity for Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC to hear alumni stories and provide constructive feedback on the training programs.



13th Annual International Conference on TESOL: Breakthroughs in English Language Teaching in the Post-Pandemic

On November 17-18, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC held the 13th International Conference on Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) "Breakthroughs in English Language Teaching in the Post-Pandemic" at SEAMEO RETRAC's premises, in cooperation with Curtin University, Australia.

This annual international conference serves as a platform for professionals in the field of English language education to share and discuss research findings, experience, and practical and theoretical issues related to English teaching and learning. This is also a valuable opportunity for English teachers



to foster their professional skills, network, and develop cooperation activities with their colleagues from around the world.

The conference this year was held in a hybrid format which attracted more than 150 participants throughout Vietnam, regional countries and beyond with more than 30 presentations and workshops focusing on best practices in innovative methods in ELT, language assessment, digital technologies in ELT, and teacher professional development, presented by eminent researchers, lecturers and scholars coming throughout Vietnam, regional countries and beyond, such as Professor

Rod Ellis from Curtin University (Australia) and Dr. Kitty Barnhouse Purgason from Biola University (USA), RELO English Language Specialist.

Organizing international conferences, seminars, and workshops for foreign language teachers is one of the strengths of SEAMEO RETRAC, contributing to the professional development of English teachers in order to successfully implement the goals of the National Foreign Languages Project, and expanding the cooperative links with regional and global countries in the field of English language teaching.



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

In order to equip participants with knowledge of ICT applications used in test preparation and assessment of students' learning performance, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on "ICT Applications in Student Assessment and Evaluation" on November 24-25, 2022.

Participating in the course were 11 academic and teaching staff of universities, colleges and

related educational institutions in Ho Chi Minh City, who are interested in using available ICT tools in teaching and learning, especially in designing appropriate activities for assessing students' learning performance.

The course was delivered by the Center's trainers who are well trained in the area and have sufficient experience in applying ICT applications in teaching and

learning. Some of the available ICT tools to be introduced during the training course were Quizalize, Socrative, Edulastic, Google Classroom Tools, ForAllRubric, etc.

Upon completion of the course and meeting related requirements, the participants were granted a certificate of completion by SEAMEO RETRAC.



Training Course on "Innovative Teaching Methods, Student Assessment and Evaluation"

On November 26-27, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on "Innovative Teaching Methods, Student Assessment and Evaluation" for more than 30 academic and teaching staff of VNU HCM - University of Science at the Center's premises. The training course was designed to provide participants essential knowledge



and skills in making innovations in teaching and learning by (1) applying innovative teaching approaches and methods, creating interactive activities, (2) applying various assessing and evaluating approaches and methods, and (3) applying ICT applications in student

assessment and evaluation.

Upon completion of the course and meeting related requirements, participants were granted a certificate of completion by SEAMEO RETRAC.

Training course on “Innovative Teaching Methods in Higher Education”

On November 28-29, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on “Innovative Teaching Methods in Higher Education” for 16 academic and teaching staff of Van Lang University and Can Tho University of Medicine-Pharmacy at the Center’s premises. The course focused on providing the participants with essential knowledge and skills in making innovations in teaching and learning by applying innovative



teaching approaches and methods, creating interactive activities and using appropriate techniques in the classroom to engage students in experiential learning.

After the two days of training, participants who met related requirements of the course were granted certificates of completion by SEAMEO RETRAC.

Training Course on “Innovative Teaching Methods, Student Assessment and Evaluation”

On December 3-4, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on “Innovative Teaching Methods, Student Assessment and Evaluation” for about 40 academic and teaching staff of VNUHCM-University of Science at the Center’s premises. The training course was designed to provide participants essential knowledge and skills in making innovations in teaching and learning by (1)



applying innovative teaching approaches and methods, creating interactive activities, (2) applying various assessing and evaluating approaches and methods, and (3) applying Information Communication Technologies (ICT) in student assessment and evaluation.

Upon completion of the course and meeting related requirements, participants were granted a certificate of completion by SEAMEO RETRAC.

UniSA Study Tour of the University of South Australia at SEAMEO RETRAC

From December 10 to 17, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a delegation of 15 undergraduate students and 3 lecturers from Australia’s University of South Australia on their UniSA Study Tour in Vietnam. During their time at SEAMEO RETRAC, UniSA student participants had the opportunity to observe English language classes, as



well as prepare and teach their own English language classes with mentor teachers from the

Center supporting them and host some cultural exchange activities for staff and students at the Center. The delegation also discovered the history and society of Vietnam through cultural site visits and trips around Ho Chi Minh City and provinces of the Mekong Delta region. The successful study tour strengthens the partnership between SEAMEO RETRAC and the University of South Australia while establishing goodwill among students interested in education as a means to a better quality of life.



Regional Training Course on “Capacity Building in Higher Education Leadership and Management” for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam

From December 15-23, 2022, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a virtual regional training course on “Capacity Building in Higher Education Leadership and Management” for more than 30 educational leaders and administrators of higher education institutions in Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Philippines, and Vietnam.

This course aimed at equipping participants with updated knowledge and necessary skills in leadership and management practices in higher education as well as giving them opportunities to share their experience with other participants and trainers. Topics of discussion covered at the training course consisted



of (1) Innovative educational leadership and management in times of crisis, (2) Leading change and improvement in higher education, (3) Assessment of student learning, and (4) Curriculum design and evaluation.

The regional training course was conducted in 2 virtual phases on SEAMEO RETRAC's Moodle site and Zoom platform. During phase 1 from December 15-16, 2022, participants joined the lecture series on the Zoom platform within 02 days. In phase 2 from December 19-23,

2022, participants accessed the SEAMEO RETRAC's Moodle site to get instructional materials, reply to questions in forum discussions, and complete assignments.

The training course is one of the key activities annually carried out by SEAMEO RETRAC to support countries in Southeast Asia, especially Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, in strengthening the leadership and managerial capacity of schools' leaders.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January- March 2023

English Clubs

February 8-10, 2023

SEAMEO Council Conference 2023

February 23-24, 2023

Training course on “Innovative Teaching Methods in Higher Education”

February 27-28, 2023

Training Course on “Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Gamification for Creative Learning”

March 7-9, 2023

Training Course on “Information Communication Technologies (ICT) Applications in Teaching and Learning”



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