

SEAMEO RETRAC



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The 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference

The Department of Education, the Philippines, in collaboration with SEAMEO Secretariat, hosted 'The 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference' in Manila, the Philippines, on February 8-10, 2023. The three-day conference marked the start of the two-year term as the SEAMEO Council Presidency of Her Excellency Sara Z Duterte, present Vice-President of the Republic of the Philippines and Secretary of Education.

The SEAMEO Council Conference 2023 was attended by education ministers and heads of delegations of the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Member Countries, Affiliate Members, and 26 Regional

Centers, who discussed and shared their practices, perception, and experience related to the navigation of the education systems in Southeast Asian countries in the post-COVID-19 pandemic. The 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference also featured the 6th Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) with the theme 'Prioritizing Foundational Learning and Lifelong Learning: Investing in Literacy, Numeracy, and STEM Education in the Digital Era'. At the conference, the Southeast Asia One Health University Network

(SEAOHUN) was welcomed as a new Affiliate Member of SEAMEO.

Besides, the 2022/2023 SEAMEO Service Award was given to twenty-six exemplary staff from SEAMEO

Units as a token of recognition of their commitment, professionalism, and dedication to education in the region and beyond during the welcome dinner.



Training Course: ICT Applications in Gamification on Creative Teaching

On the 27th and 28th of February 2023, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on 'ICT Applications in Gamification on Creative Teaching' for lecturers and academic staff from different universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and its nearby provinces.

During the course, the participants were provided with plenty of opportunities to acquire updated knowledge of various innovative tools which can support them to design fascinating lectures, mini-

tests, and activities for the purpose of increasing student engagement and creating a dynamic and stimulating learning environment. Several applications presented in this course were Lionit, Canva, Adobe Express, Goose Chase Edu, and Class Flow.

After being introduced to different effective ICT applications, not only were the participants given opportunities to practice utilizing them for designing their lessons and to involve in representation



and discussion activities of how practice by using these tools to improve the current teaching and applications in teaching.

Training Course: ICT Applications in Teaching and Assessment of Student Learning

On March 07-09, 2023, with the funding from the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology – Japan (MEXT), SEAMEO RETRAC organized the training course on 'ICT Applications in Teaching and Assessment of Student Learning' at the Centre's premises for 30 participants including lecturers and academic staff of different universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and its nearby provinces.



The course was organized aiming at providing participants with opportunities to acquire new knowledge and skills in using available ICT applications in teaching and assessment of student learning and

sharpen their abilities to utilize them in practice. During the three training days, participants were introduced with a useful and far-reaching model- ADDIE Model and approached various ICT applications and

websites to assist them in designing creative lectures as well as creating effective activities for assessing students' learning performance.

Research on Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Vietnam

The journal article '*Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Vietnam*' by the SEAMEO RETRAC research team, including Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Mr. Tran Phuoc Linh, Ms. Le Thi Thuy Duong and Dr. Anita Clapano-Oblina, has been officially published in the Vietnam Journal of Educational Sciences, Vol 19, No.2, 2023.

The article is part of the regional research project on '*Job Satisfaction of Basic Education Teachers in Southeast Asia*', an inter-center collaborative project among SEAMEO Centers. It 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 research employs Herzberg's Dual Factor Theory Motivation: hygiene factor and motivator factor. In the case of Vietnam, analysis of responses has demonstrated that the sources of job satisfaction are found to be both hygiene factor and motivator

factor. The top three resources of job dissatisfaction are (1) job security, (2) work environment, and (3) job responsibility.

The article can be accessed in the following link.

<http://vjes.vnies.edu.vn/vi/su-hai-long-trong-cong-viec-cua-giao-vien-pho-thong-tai-viet-nam>.

English Clubs at SEAMEO Regional Training Center in Vietnam (SEAMEO RETRAC)

From January to June 2023, SEAMEO RETRAC organized ten English clubs that welcomed all English learners both inside and outside the Center. The primary goal of the clubs was to create an English-speaking environment for the participants while also providing them with useful knowledge to improve their English language skills.

The English clubs covered a variety of topics, including "*Lunar New Year 2023*", "*IELTS Speaking Part 1: How to Answer the Questions Effectively*", "*Your Favourite Holidays*",

"*Friendship*", "*IELTS Speaking Part 2: Tips and Practice*", "*How does Technology Change our Lives?*", "*Your Favourite Sports*", "*Improving your Pronunciation: Chunking and Intonation*", "*Food and Drink*", and

"*Online Learning: Advantages and Disadvantages*". These topics were selected to cater to the interests of the participants, ensuring their active engagement and participation.



Sharing Session on Integrating AI Tools in Teaching English Language

On March 11, 2023, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a sharing session on '*Integrating AI Tools in Teaching the English Language*' for teachers of English at the Center's premises. Participating in this session were 15 English teachers. The session was

conducted by Dr. Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang – Deputy Dean, the Divisions of Foreign Studies, SEAMEO RETRAC.

The sharing session served as a space for teachers to meet, exchange, and share their professional development experiences. To begin the session, Dr. Nguyen Thi Thuy Trang provided practical guidance on how to use free artificial intelligence (AI) information technology tools in the classroom, helping teachers to enhance their

teaching and student engagement.

The teachers were then engaged in sharing their own experiences and discussing effective implementation of AI tools in their teaching. By sharing their knowledge and expertise, they created a collaborative learning environment and gained new perspectives on the use of AI technology in language education.



The English clubs were a resounding success, attracting a total attendance of nearly 400 English learners. Participants praised the clubs for the friendly and supportive environment they provided, allowing

them to practice and develop their English language skills. They also appreciated the clubs' informative and engaging approach, which helped them improve their language skills while having fun. The Center plans to

continue organizing similar English clubs in the future, emphasizing the importance of creating an English-speaking environment for language learners to develop their skills.

MOA Signing Ceremony with LabTech International LTD.

The MOA Signing Ceremony between SEAMEO RETRAC and LabTech International LTD. was conducted at the Center's premises on April 06, 2023, with the attendance from the Board of Directors and Senior Staff

of SEAMEO RETRAC and the General Manager from LabTech - Mr. Brad Ker.

The MOA is perceived as the ground for the two parties to cooperate and collaborate in Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) capacity building and digital learning resources. SEAMEO RETRAC and LabTech International LTD. will work closely as strategic

partners in TVET training courses and programs with accreditations of courses in relevant awarding associations; academic exchange via joint research and projects on TVET, and digital learning and teaching; and hybrid conferences, webinars on various aspects of technical education and training.



Courtesy visit of SEAMEO Regional Center for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN)

On April 20, 2023, Dr. Mohd Azlis Sani Md Jalil - Acting Director of SEAMEO Regional Center for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN), and his officer made a courtesy visit to SEAMEO RETRAC. The meeting aimed at fostering relationships among SEAMEO Centers and discussing the potential for collaborative activities between the two Centers. During the meeting, the two parties



shared their educational expertise and updated their ongoing research and projects, and training programs. Furthermore, collaboration and

cooperation on academic and staff exchange, and RETRAC's management were also discussed in great detail.

Training courses: AI Applications in Teaching and Research

SEAMEO RETRAC conducted three training courses on "AI Applications in Teaching and Research", specially designed for lecturers and academic staff working in various universities and educational institutions in Ho Chi Minh City and its nearby provinces, and at Tra Vinh University in April, May, and June 2023 respectively.

The courses focused on four different topics, which were (1) AI applications in developing lectures (2) AI applications in designing teaching materials; (3) AI applications in evaluating and assessing student performance; and (4) AI applications in research. During the training, the participants were updated with knowledge of interactive AI applications and tools such as ChatGPT, Bing AI, Scholarcy,



Quillbot etc., which will greatly facilitate them in creating lectures and designing instructional materials. The training course also provided the participants with hands-on activities to practice utilizing these applications, which helped them develop their practical application skills and enhance their abilities to leverage accessible AI applications in teaching and research. Additionally, the participants were engaged in discussions on how they can deal with challenges in using these

applications in practice with other participants and the trainer.

Given the high proportion of positive comments and feedback received regarding the organization of the training workshop, it can be concluded that the workshop was organized successfully. In addition, participants appreciated the organizers' preparations and efforts for all the training courses in terms of course content, trainers' preparation and knowledge, training facilities, and staff assistance.



Parents Forum on STEAM Education

At the Parents Forum on Sunday, May 14, 2023, organized by SEAMEO RETRAC, Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang shared with more than 20 parents useful information on issues surrounding the STEAM integrated education approach and its application potential in the future.

The forum focused on discussing the importance of STEAM education for students' development. Dr. Nguyen Thi Thu Trang presented the benefits that students can gain from participating in this educational approach. STEAM fosters creative thinking, exploration, and logical reasoning, enhancing

problem-solving skills and promoting comprehensive development for students.

During the forum, expert guest speakers shared their profound insights and offered practical tips for parents to support their children on

their promising educational journey with STEAM:

1. Encourage Creative Thinking: Instead of posing simple questions, parents should use open-ended ones, such as "What do you know about the light bulb?" rather than

"Is this a light bulb?" to stimulate children's reasoning and nurture their creative thinking.

2. Learn through Real-Life Experiences: Parents should not hesitate to let their children experience and explore through

hands-on activities. Engaging in new and exciting tasks ignites curiosity and aids better understanding compared to mere theoretical learning.

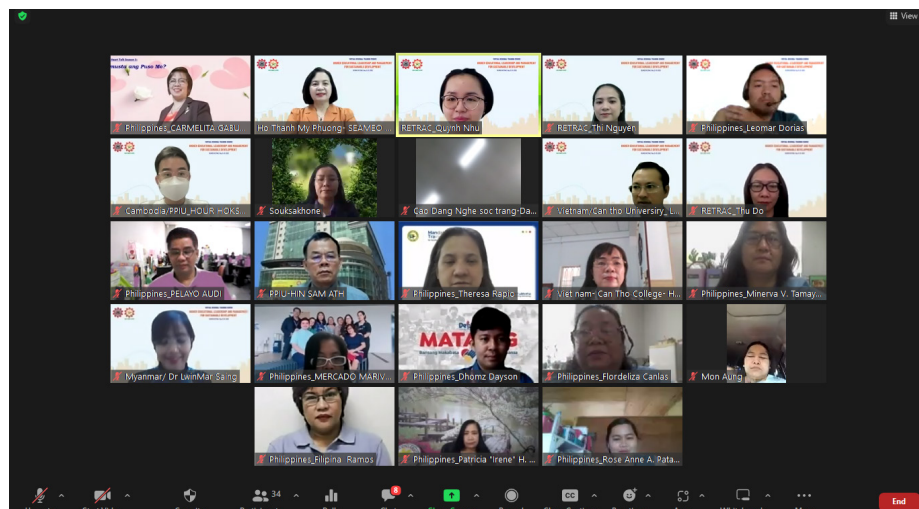
3. Respect Children's Autonomy: Regard children as independent

individuals and respect their freedom to experience, perceive, and decide while engaging in STEAM learning.



Virtual Regional Training Course: Higher Education Leadership and Management for Sustainable Development

To assist SEAMEO Member Countries, especially Cambodia, Laos P.D.R, Myanmar, and Vietnam, in addressing issues and identifying solutions for challenges related to leadership and management, and to create a professional forum for discussion, knowledge update, and exchange of expertise and experience in related areas, SEAMEO RETRAC convened a virtual regional training course on "Higher Education Leadership and Management for Sustainable Development" from May 23 to 31, 2023. The course was conducted on the



Zoom platform and SEAMEO RETRAC's Moodle site to bring online learning experiences to the participants.

The course was divided into 2 phases. Phase one was conducted via the Zoom platform on May 23 - 24, 2023 with 2 topics per day whereas Phase two conducted on May 25 - 31, 2023 required the participants to access the SEAMEO RETRAC's Moodle site to

get instructional materials, discuss questions in forum discussions and complete related assignments. The Virtual Regional Training Course welcomed 6 delegates from the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS) of the Kingdom of Cambodia and 44 participants from different universities, colleges, and institutions of SEAMEO Member Countries.

Opening Ceremony of Teacher Training Courses for Teachers of English in Ninh Thuan Province

Within the framework of the teacher training plan in 2023 of the National Foreign Languages Projects, SEAMEO RETRAC collaborated with the Department of Education and Training of Ninh Thuan province to conduct the Opening Ceremony of Teacher Training Courses for nearly 200 Teachers of English in Ninh Thuan on June 18, 2023.

The training courses in English Proficiency and Professional Training for English language teachers commenced on June 18, 2023, and is expected to terminate at the end of October 2023. Notably, the English

Proficiency Course is designed to help the participants improve their English language proficiency and be equipped with essential academic knowledge and skills to prepare them for the English language proficiency test (VSTEP) after the completion of the training course.

Simultaneously, the key content of the Professional Training program consists of 3 modules: (1) English Teaching Methodology; (2) ICT in language instruction; and (3) English

Learning Activities and especially the program has been conducted in the hybrid mode, integrating face to face and online learning. The course aims to help the teachers enhance their knowledge and teaching skills in creating vivid and interactive classroom activities, applying appropriate and innovative techniques and methods, and utilizing information technology in teaching to increase learning motivation for students and develop their essential English skills.



Training workshop: Enhancing Professional Communication Skills for Government Officials

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with Regional English Language Office (RELO) and the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City successfully conducted the training workshop on "Enhancing Professional

Communication Skills for Government Officials" for 33 participants from 26 provinces of Vietnam from June 20 to 23, 2023.

The training workshop was delivered by experienced trainers from SEAMEO RETRAC and universities in Vietnam. The training workshop aimed to equip English communication skills for officials working in the field of international relations, to help them improve their understanding



of multicultural communication and to build the relationship among colleagues.



Courtesy visit of the Minister of the Post- Secondary Education & Future Skills of British Columbia, Canada

On June 21, 2023, SEAMEO RETRAC had the great honor to welcome the Minister of the Post-Secondary Education & Future Skills of British Columbia (B.C.), Canada, Hon. Selina Robinson together with her delegation, including the Deputy Minister - Ms. Bobbi-Lynn Plecas, Executive Director of BCCIE - Dr. Randall Martin, Chief of Staff - Mr. Eric Peters to the Center's premises. The primary objective of the visit was to explore possible collaborative activities between the two sides.

In the meeting, the two parties introduced their functions, missions, ongoing projects and programs, and achievements in their operations. Simultaneously, areas of collaboration,



typically Vietnamese student recruitment to study in Canada and training programs for potential and talented students across Vietnam and Southeast Asian Region to work in this country, were proposed and discussed. It was expected that this visit would open great opportunities for post-secondary institutions in B.C. to resolve the difficulties and challenges regarding the shortage of talented and skilled workers in Canada.

The visit of the delegation also aimed to develop relations with other SEAMEO Centers, supporting long-term engagement with governments in the Southeast Asian Region, especially when they had paid a visit to SEAMEO INNOTECH in Manila, Philippines before the trip to Vietnam. In this regard, the close-knit cooperation relationships between the Centers and Canadian partners were emphasized, notably the strategic partnership with BCCIE since 2006.



Business Trip of the SEAMEO RETRAC's Delegation to Canada and the United States

From June 24 to July 10, 2023, the SEAMEO RETRAC delegation embarked on a business trip to Canada and the United States. The primary objective of this trip was to explore opportunities for academic collaborations and foster relationships with esteemed educational institutions in North America.

The delegation's journey involved participating in the British Columbia International Education Week (BCIEW) 2023 held by the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE) and visiting prominent institutions, including York University,

the University of Victoria, Queens College, Miami University, and Stony Brook University.

The tour commenced with the delegation's participation in the BCIE Week 2023, a premier event in the field of international education. This annual gathering provided a dynamic platform for educators, institutions, and organizations from around the world to engage in discussions, workshops, and networking sessions. These interactions allowed the SEAMEO RETRAC delegation to gain insights into global education trends and challenges, facilitating the exchange of ideas and best practices that could be applied to Southeast Asia's educational landscape.

After the BCIEW 2023, the delegation embarked on a series of visits to distinguished higher education

institutions in Canada and the United States, aiming to explore cooperative possibilities among the parties. Discussions revolved around the potential for faculty exchanges, collaborative research initiatives, summer programs for English language learning designed for students, study tours for educational leaders and administrators, and cultural exchanges to foster educational collaboration.

SEAMEO RETRAC delegation's business tour underscores the significance of international collaboration in education. This tour is poised to create a more globally connected and focused education system in Southeast Asia, with the knowledge and insights gained serving as the foundation for a brighter, interconnected future.



MOU Signing Ceremony with Colleges and Institutions Canada (CICan)

The MOU between SEAMEO RETRAC and CICan was signed in a formally organized ceremony on the sidelines of the attendance from Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong - Center Director and her delegation at the BC International Education Week (BCIEW) hosted in British Columbia, Canada by BCCIE on June 26, 2023. The MOU marks a milestone toward long-term cooperation for educational endeavors between the two parties and provides them a great opportunity to broaden the engagement among educational institutions in Vietnam and Canada as well as to bring prominent benefits to leaders, administrators, teachers,



and students in Vietnam and the Southeast Asian Region

Under the terms of the MOU, the Center and CICan will work closely to co-organize academic and cultural study tours for higher education teachers, administrators, and leaders from Vietnam to Canada;

to build and enhance internship or exchange programs of professional development for educational resource staff from the two nations; and to develop the TVET curriculum and training courses for Vietnam and Southeast Asia.



UPCOMING EVENTS

June - July, 2023

Special Program for Young Learners: Summer Discovery 2023

July 08, 2023

Seminar on “Occupational Needs in English Course Design and Assessment”

July 13 - 14, 2023

International Conference on “A New Paradigm of Leadership and Management, Teaching and Learning in Higher Education: Global and Local Perspectives and Practices”

July 25 - 26, 2023

SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting (CDM) 2023

August - October, 2023

Teacher Professional Training Courses for Teachers of English in provinces of Southern Vietnam

August 18 - 19, 2023

Training course on “Interactive Teaching Approaches, Student Assessment and Evaluation” for University of Science, Vietnam National University, HCMC

August 22 - 23, 2023

Training course on “Interactive Teaching Methods in Higher Education”

2nd SEAMEO Knowledge Management Learning and Sharing Forum

August 29 - 30, 2023 and September 07 - 08, 2023

Training course on “AI Applications in Teaching and Research”

September - November, 2023

Webinar series on “English teaching methodology within the Virtual Education Program”

September 28 - 29, 2023

SEAMEO RETRAC 26th Governing Board Meeting and Educational Forum on “School Innovation for Future Teaching and Learning in the AI and Digital Era: Best Practices in Southeast Asia”

October 06, 2023

Courtesy Visit of the SEAMEO Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEAMEO SEARCA)

October 06 - 07, 2023

Training Course on “Interactive Teaching Approaches in Higher Education” for University of Science, Vietnam National University HCMC

October 19, 2023

Courtesy Visit of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN)

October 24 - 27, 2023

Regional Training Course on “Leadership and Management for Higher Education in the Global Context”

November 13 - 15, 2023

TESOL pre-conference workshop on English teaching methodology within the English Language Specialist Program

November 15, 2023

Graduation Ceremony for Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics - Intake 20

Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Alumni Event

November 16 - 17, 2023

14th International Conference on TESOL: “The Future of English Language Teaching: Opportunities and Challenges”

November 20, 2023

Celebration of Vietnamese Teacher’s Day

November 23 - 24, 2023

Training Course on “Interactive Teaching Approaches in Higher Education”

November 28 - 29, 2023

Training Course on “ICT Applications in Teaching and Research”



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