



SEAMEO RETRAC

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SEAMEO RETRAC Participates in Key Regional Education Events in Brunei Darussalam

SEAMEO RETRAC took part in two major regional engagements in Brunei Darussalam in July 2025, highlighting the region’s shared commitment to sustainable development, innovation, and collaborative policy research in education in Southeast Asia.

53rd SEAMEO Council Conference

SEAMEO RETRAC and SEAMEO CELLL joined the delegation from the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam, led by H.E. Assoc. Prof. Dr. Nguyen Van Phuc, Deputy Minister, at the 53rd SEAMEO Council Conference. This year’s conference, themed *“Greening Education for a Sustainable Southeast Asia,”* reinforced regional collaboration and highlighted collective commitments to integrating environmental sustainability into education systems.



In his statement, Deputy Minister Nguyen Van Phuc outlined Vietnam’s national strategies for advancing green education, emphasizing initiatives that embed sustainability into teaching, learning, and institutional development.

Key decisions announced during the conference included:

- The election of the Minister of Education of Brunei Darussalam as SEAMEO Council President (2025–2027).
- The election of Vietnam’s Minister of Education and Training as Vice President.
- The confirmation that Vietnam will host the 54th SEAMEO Council Conference in 2027.



The event also commemorated the 60th Anniversary of SEAMEO (1965–2025), marking six decades of regional cooperation in education, science, and culture. As one of SEAMEO’s 26 Centres/Units, SEAMEO RETRAC remains committed to supporting joint initiatives and advancing sustainable educational development.





CPRN Summit 2025

At the SEAMEO Centre Policy Research Network (CPRN) Summit 2025, organized by the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training in Brunei (SEAMEO VOTTECH) in collaboration with the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO RETRAC contributed to discussions focused on building an inclusive and sustainable future through regional collaboration and innovation. It highlighted the necessity of forging strong

Enhancing Governance and Strategic Skills in Higher Education in Southeast Asia

Within its mandate, SEAMEO RETRAC supports SEAMEO member countries, especially Lao PDR, Cambodia, and Myanmar, in developing leadership and management capacity in higher education. The Centre focuses on providing training programs to strengthen institutional governance, strategic planning, resource development, and professional development for faculty and administrative leaders.

From 15 to 18 July 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC organized the annual regional training course on *“Capacity Building in Leadership and Management in Higher Education”*. The course aimed to enhance the leadership and management skills of administrators, leaders, and policymakers from Ministries of Education of member countries.

The training covered four main topics:

1. Innovations in leadership and management in higher education: Influences, empowerment, and engagement for success
2. Managing conflict and decision-making in higher education
3. Strategic planning and resource development in higher education
4. Faculty assessment and professional development

The course provided participants with opportunities to exchange experiences, update their knowledge, and practice effective management tools, contributing to strengthened leadership capacity and improved quality in higher education across the region.



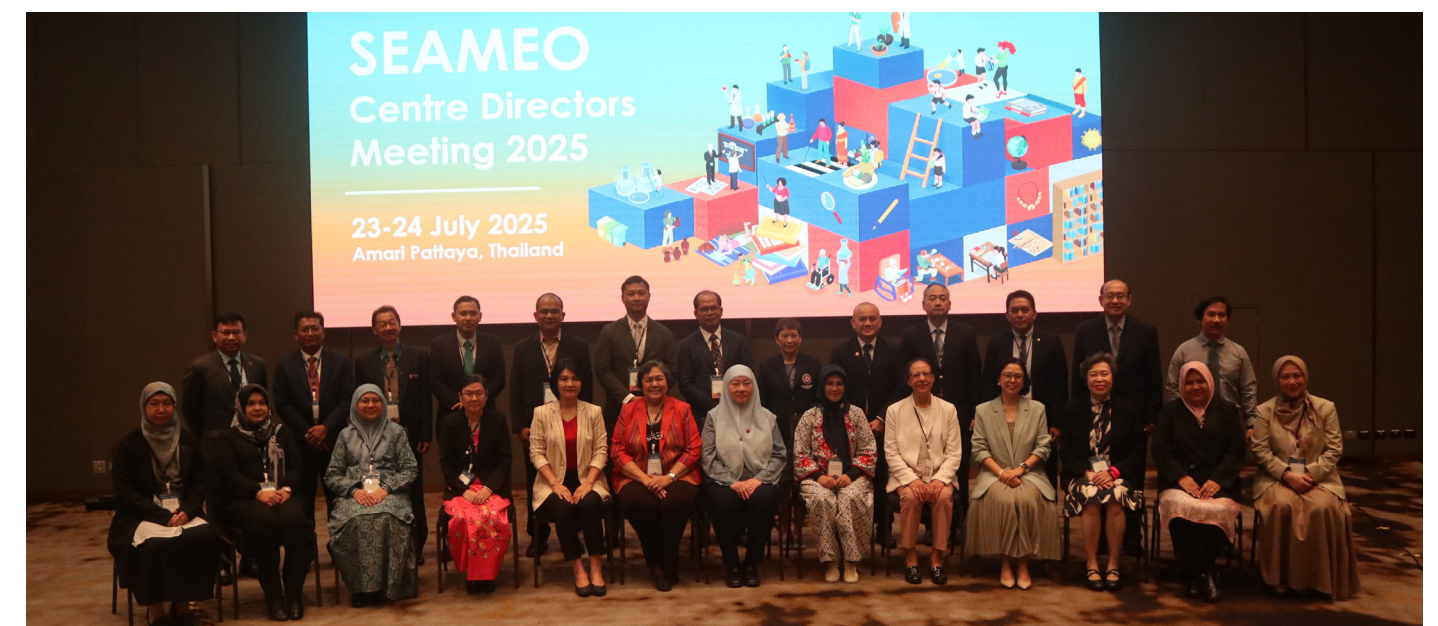
partnerships among diverse communities and stakeholders to advance progress in education, science, and culture. Keynote sessions covered a wide spectrum of emerging priorities, including inclusive and metacognitive teaching practices, research-driven health policy development, data-based education improvement through PISA, and green transitions in ASEAN's TVET systems.

A notable component of the summit was the Parallel Session on Common Policy Research: Discussion Way Forward for the Educational Cluster, chaired by Mdm. Jamilah binti Kadir (SEAMEO SEN), co-chaired by Ms. Le Thi Thuy Duong (SEAMEO RETRAC), and supported by rapporteur Ms. Sanura Jaya (SEAMEO RECSAM). The session identified critical barriers to collaborative research and policy implementation and proposed practical directions to strengthen coordination and enhance regional impact.

SEAMEO RETRAC Participates in SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting (CDM) 2025

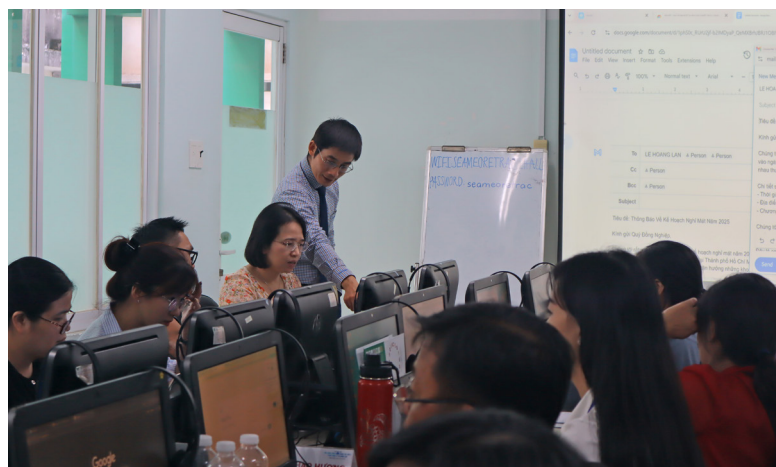
SEAMEO RETRAC actively participated in the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting (CDM) 2025 in July 2025 in Thailand. At the Inception Workshop for the Establishment of the Southeast Asia School Leadership Hub, SEAMEO RETRAC shared expert opinions and practical experiences, providing guidance on the integration of gender perspectives and the application of artificial intelligence in education. The Centre also actively contributed to the Gender Mainstreaming at SEAMEO and Inter-Centre Collaboration on AI sessions, highlighting strategies for inclusive and technology-enhanced educational practices across the region.

During the CDM 2025 sessions, SEAMEO RETRAC updated the latest activities, projects, and policies from the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centres, member countries, and affiliated organizations. The discussions focused on identifying collaborative solutions to strengthen inter-centre cooperation through joint programs and projects, particularly in capacity-building initiatives for educational leaders, administrators, and teachers at all levels. The Centre also engaged with international organizations to explore collaborative opportunities, aiming to implement programs and activities aligned with its mandate and mission. The participation underscores RETRAC's commitment to advancing regional education through innovation, collaboration, and capacity development.



Transforming Education Management and Teaching with ICT Skills

In the context of increasing digital integration in education, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City College of Economics, organized the training course *"ICT Applications in Management and Teaching"* on July 22–23, 2025, aiming to enhance digital competencies for educators and education managers. The training provided participants with practical knowledge and skills to effectively integrate information and communication technologies into educational and administrative settings. The program covered key topics including digital tools for classroom management, online teaching platforms, data-driven decision-making, and effective use of educational software. Participants engaged in hands-on sessions, exploring interactive teaching methods and digital collaboration techniques. By the end of the course, attendees were equipped to enhance teaching quality, streamline administrative processes, and foster a more engaging learning environment.



SEAMEO RETRAC Strengthens Leadership Skills Through Experiential Training

SEAMEO RETRAC successfully conducted the training course on *"Effective Task Delegation, Empowerment and Motivation to Staff"* on July 30–31, 2025. The program brought together managers, team leaders, and supervisors aiming to strengthen their leadership skills and enhance team performance. Participants engaged in reflective and experiential activities that enhanced their understanding of communication, trust-building, and performance-based motivation. They also explored practical methods for delegating tasks effectively, empowering staff to take initiative, and motivating employees to achieve their best. Through interactive sessions, case studies, and group discussions, attendees gained valuable tools to foster a positive work environment and improve team collaboration.



Training Workshop: Innovative Practices to Promote Enthusiasm and Engagement in Language Learning

From August 11 to 13, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Regional English Language Office (RELO) – U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, organized a training workshop titled *"Innovative Practices to Promote Enthusiasm and Engagement in Language Learning."* The workshop aimed to equip English language educators from the South provinces of Vietnam with innovative, technology-enhanced teaching approaches to inspire greater student motivation and interaction in the classroom.

Throughout the sessions, participants explored contemporary practices in English language teaching, focusing on the integration of AI, educational technology, social media, and participatory culture to create interactive and meaningful learning experiences. Key topics included digital storytelling, gamification, fanfiction, and the use of digital "wilds"—authentic online environments that support English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) and enhance communicative learning. Through hands-on activities, discussions, and collaborative projects, participants practiced designing AI-supported lesson plans, crafting effective AI prompts, and developing tech-based tasks aligned with key language skills.

By the end of the workshop, participants gained practical strategies to apply emerging technologies in diverse teaching contexts, improve student engagement, and adapt effectively to the evolving digital landscape of English language education in Vietnam.

Celebrating Graduation and Alumni Connections

On 13 August 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Curtin University (Australia), held a series of events celebrating the accomplishments of its Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics – Intake 22 graduates and strengthening connections within its alumni community.

Graduation Ceremony for Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics – Intake 22

The day began with the Graduation Ceremony, a momentous occasion recognizing the achievements of the graduates. Inspiring remarks were delivered by Mr. Jonathan Saw, Consul (Commercial) at the Australian Consulate-General in Ho Chi Minh City, and Prof. Dr. Xiaotian Zhang, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Global) of Curtin University, along with a heartfelt speech by Ms. Le Thi Thuy Duong, Director of SEAMEO RETRAC. Families and friends of the graduates attended, adding warmth and meaning to the celebration.

Mr. Jonathan Saw reminded the graduates of the core values instilled through the program:

“As you move forward into the world beyond, remember the values that this program has instilled in you – integrity, excellence, inclusivity, innovation, and respect for diversity. Embrace these values and use them to guide your actions and decisions, whether you pursue further education, enter the workforce, or engage in social projects.”



The ceremony not only celebrated the graduates' academic success but also reaffirmed SEAMEO RETRAC and Curtin University's commitment to fostering international collaboration, leadership, and excellence in education.



Alumni Reception – Building Connections and Community

The day's celebrations concluded with an Alumni Reception, uniting program lecturers and 50 alumni from across Vietnam. The event provided a platform for sharing personal experiences, and professional insights while reinforcing a sense of community among alumni. This gathering also allowed Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC to hear first-hand alumni feedback and success stories. It underscored a commitment to maintaining an active and engaged academic community dedicated to lifelong learning and the growth of the program's institutions and individuals.

Together, these events marked a significant milestone for the graduates and alumni, reaffirming the program's role in nurturing the next generation of educators and researchers in applied linguistics and TESOL, while also bringing meaningful value to the TESOL academic community.



From Policy to Practice: Rethinking English-Medium Education at TESOL 2025

In an era of globalization and increasing internationalization of education, English has become a common medium of instruction across many disciplines and academic levels. To address relevant issues and share best practices, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Curtin University, Australia, successfully organized the 16th International Conference on TESOL on August 14–15, 2025. With the theme “English-Medium Education: Global Perspectives and Local Applications,” the conference explored the expanding role of English as a medium of instruction and the opportunities and challenges it brings.

The conference brought together English language educators, researchers, policymakers, and technology developers from across Southeast Asia and beyond. Participants engaged in keynote speeches, paper presentations, interactive workshops, panel discussions, and poster sessions, all designed to share innovative research, practical strategies, and future directions in English language teaching and English-medium education (EME).

At the Conference, a keynote presentation by Dr. Gary Bonar, Lecturer in languages and TESOL at Monash University, Australia, addressed the rapid expansion of English-Medium Instruction (EMI) in higher education and its impact on academic staff. He discussed the pressures lecturers face when teaching complex disciplinary content in English with limited institutional support. Drawing on examples from Vietnam and other EMI contexts, Dr. Bonar emphasized the need for more practical and sustainable support for EMI educators.

By fostering dialogue on pedagogy, technology, and language policy, the conference enhanced participants’ understanding of emerging innovations in English language education. Attendees left with practical insights, strengthened professional networks, and actionable strategies to improve teaching and learning in English-medium contexts worldwide.



SEAMEO RETRAC Hosts Training on Active Teaching Methods in Higher Education

SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course on “Interactive Teaching Approaches in Higher Education” to support university lecturers in adopting modern teaching methods, addressing the growing demands of learners and society. The training introduced participants to the concepts, principles, and implementation processes of three key teaching methods: Problem-based Teaching, Project-based Teaching, and Learning Stations. Through hands-on activities and real-world applications, attendees practiced integrating these methods into their teaching. Additionally, the course focused on the principles of integrating information technology to support interactive teaching strategies, enabling lecturers to design impactful learning activities that enhance the effectiveness of science instruction and classroom engagement.



Strengthening Educators’ Abilities in Data-Driven Research

In response to the growing demand for robust research skills in the education sector, a training course on “Data Analysis in Research” was held from September 10–12, 2025. The program aimed to provide participants with a comprehensive understanding of data analysis in scientific research and to develop their ability to tackle challenges in applying various analytical methods. Focusing on practical applications, the course introduced statistical techniques and software, including SPSS and Excel, to explore research models and test hypotheses. Participants engaged with quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method data analysis through hands-on exercises and interactive discussions, enhancing their capacity to implement effective analytical approaches and generate meaningful insights from complex datasets in educational research.



SEAMEO RETRAC's 28th Governing Board Meeting

SEAMEO RETRAC proudly hosted its 28th Governing Board Meeting (GBM) on September 29–30, 2025, marking a meaningful milestone in its continued journey of regional cooperation and educational advancement. This year's GBM was honored to welcome all 11 Governing Board Members who are high officials from the Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries, along with Mr. John Arnold Siena, Deputy Director for Programme and Development of the SEAMEO Secretariat, and the Centre's Board of Directors and Management Team.

Over two days of constructive discussions, the Board reviewed the Centre's accomplishments in FY 2024/2025 and endorsed the Action Plan for FY 2025/2026 as well as the Five-Year Strategic Plan for FY 2026/27–2030/31, which will guide SEAMEO RETRAC in further strengthening its role as a regional hub for educational leadership and capacity building.

In his remarks, Mr. Siena commended SEAMEO RETRAC's significant contributions to advancing SEAMEO's strategic priorities, particularly in promoting regional visibility, programme excellence, stakeholder engagement, and digital transformation in education.

In FY 2025/2026, SEAMEO RETRAC remains committed to fostering sustainable regional development through inclusive and innovative education, enhanced leadership and teacher capacity, and stronger partnerships across Southeast Asia and beyond. As the Centre approaches its 30th anniversary in 2026, it looks forward to celebrating three decades of dedication to education and to continuing its mission of nurturing innovation, inclusivity, and excellence for a brighter regional future.



SEAMEO RETRAC Hosted Educational Forum on Digital Transformation in Southeast Asia

With education systems across Southeast Asia undergoing rapid digital transformation, leadership and management practices are being challenged to adapt and innovate. As schools and institutions integrate new technologies and explore data-driven approaches, educators are redefining traditional practices to meet emerging needs and seize opportunities for improvement. To create a platform for sharing insights, policy innovations, and practical experiences in this evolving landscape, SEAMEO RETRAC organized its annual Educational Forum on "Building bridges in education in the digital transformation era in Southeast Asia" on September 29, 2025.

Held back-to-back with RETRAC's 28th Governing Board Meeting, the Forum provided a platform for policymakers, educational leaders, and professional educators from SEAMEO Member Countries and beyond to share insights, introduce innovations, and discuss best practices in leadership, management, teaching, and learning. It addressed opportunities and challenges in implementing digital initiatives across Southeast Asian education systems, exploring topics such as innovative leadership and management approaches, policy innovations, capacity building, and the integration of local and global lessons for sustainable development.

Country reports, delivered by SEAMEO RETRAC's Governing Board Members, including policymakers, professional educators, and educational leaders from Ministries of Education across Southeast Asia, highlighted current practices and strategies that bridged gaps and fostered future growth in the digital era. Attracting over 600 online participants from Southeast Asia and beyond, these discussions offered in-depth insights into policy strategies, successful case studies, innovative approaches, and practical experiences from each country to inform and guide the sustainable development of education in the region.





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