

DIVISION OF EDUCATION

NEWS IN BRIEF

QUARTER III & IV, 2025 - VOLUME 35



HIGHLIGHT EVENTS



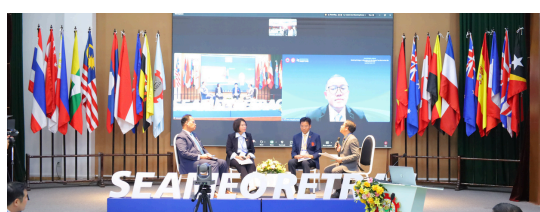
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

**Internationalization in higher education
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EDUCATIONAL FORUM 2025

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RECENT EVENTS

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REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE ON

Capacity building in leadership and management in higher education

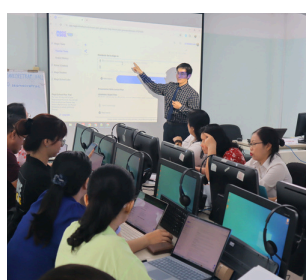
From July 15–18, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized a regional training course on **“Capacity building in leadership and management in higher education”** for nearly 40 leaders, managers, and administrators from higher education institutions across Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam. This course continued to serve as a vibrant platform for regional academic collaboration, where participants exchanged experiences and shared innovative management practices. Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and practical case studies, the course strengthened participants’ capabilities to lead educational innovation and institutional transformation in the region.



TRAINING COURSE ON

ICT applications in management and teaching

In collaboration with Ho Chi Minh City College of Economics, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a two-day course on **“ICT applications in management and teaching”** on July 22-23. The courses provided participants with practical knowledge and digital tools to integrate AI and information technology into daily management and teaching. The sessions emphasized the use of smart tools for classroom engagement, digital communication, and data-driven decision-making.



TRAINING COURSE ON

Effective task delegation, empowerment and motivation to staff



On July 30–31, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted a leadership development course titled **“Effective task delegation, empowerment and motivation to staff”**. Participants engaged in reflective and experiential activities that enhanced their understanding of communication, trust-building, and performance-based motivation. The training highlighted practical approaches to inspire teamwork and accountability in higher education institutions.



TRAINING COURSE ON Innovative teaching approaches in higher education



Held on August 26–27, 2025, the training course on **“Innovative teaching approaches in higher education”** attracted lecturers and staff from various universities and colleges nationwide. It introduced creative and student-centered approaches to foster critical thinking and engagement in higher education. Participants explored blended learning techniques, case-based teaching, and classroom technology integration through interactive activities and peer discussions.



TRAINING COURSE ON Data analysis in research

Following the success of previous sessions in June, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC reconvened the course on **“Data analysis in research”** from September 10–12, 2025. This updated edition focused on practical applications of statistical tools, including NVivo, SPSS, and Excel, in educational research. Participants gained deeper insights into interpreting data, presenting results, and applying data-driven decision-making in academic and administrative contexts.



EDUCATIONAL FORUM 2025

Building bridges in education in the digital transformation era in Southeast Asia

On September 29, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the Educational Forum on **“Building bridges in education in the digital transformation era in Southeast Asia”** at its premises, from 13:30 to 17:00 (GMT +7/Vietnam Time).

The Forum, conducted back-to-back with SEAMEO RETRAC’s 28th Governing Board Meeting, provided a professional platform for RETRAC Governing Board Members who are policymakers, educational leaders, and professional educators from SEAMEO Member Countries to exchange insights, share innovative practices, and discuss policy directions for promoting digital transformation in education across the region.

This year’s Forum focused on fostering regional collaboration and sustainable innovation through five key sub-themes:

1. Innovative approaches and/or practices of leadership and management in education in digital transformation context (i.e. basic education and higher education levels);
2. Opportunities and challenges faced by schools and institutions and related solutions or initiatives that help to transform challenges into opportunities to promote innovative leadership, management, teaching and learning;
3. Policy innovations or changes to support ministries, institutions in sustaining local innovation or protecting data privacy and promoting ethical technology use;
4. Accelerating capacity building initiatives to provide educational leaders, administrators and teaching staff with knowledge and resources to integrate digital skills and competencies into leadership, management, curricular and teaching practice; and,
5. Harnessing local and global lessons and practices to enable institutions to share successes and setbacks, adapting global digital education trends to the local and unique needs as well as strengths of the Southeast Asian region for localized and sustainable growth.



Speakers of the Forum were SEAMEO RETRAC Governing Board Members who are senior leaders, managers, and administrators from Ministries of Education and higher education institutions in Southeast Asian countries. Each country representative presented a report highlighting ongoing initiatives, innovative models, and national efforts in digital transformation in education.

The Forum also welcomed over 100 participants from across Southeast Asia and beyond via both in-person and online participation, creating an inclusive platform to build bridges and advance digital educational cooperation in the region.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2025

Internationalization in higher education leadership and management: Perspectives, innovations and best practices

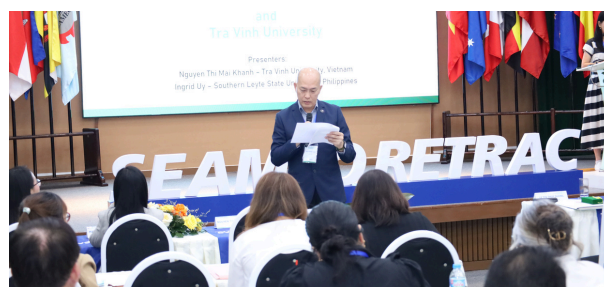
On October 8–9, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Alberta Bureau for International Education (ABIE), the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), and the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Canada, successfully organized the International Conference 2025 on “**Internationalization in higher education leadership and management: Perspectives, innovations and best practices**” at its premises located at 35 Le Thanh Ton Street, Sai Gon Ward, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

This year, the Conference had the honor of welcoming representatives from various SEAMEO Centers across the region, together with leaders, administrators, scholars, researchers, and educational practitioners from numerous universities and higher education institutions worldwide. The event brought together approximately 80 delegates from Canada, Australia, Israel, France, USA, the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Myanmar, Malaysia, Taiwan, Japan and Vietnam.

The Conference featured keynote speeches and presentations by distinguished leaders and experts, including Mr. John Arnold Siena (SEAMEO Secretariat), Dr. Tim Loreman (Concordia University of Edmonton, Canada), and Dr. Nathalia Holtzman (CUNY College of Staten Island, USA), along with speakers from various international higher education institutions. Their plenary sessions and discussions enriched the collective understanding of internationalization trends and practices in the region.

Six crucial sub-themes which were discussed in the International Conference included:

- (1) Internationalization in educational policy, leadership, management and administration;
- (2) Quality assurance and accreditation in higher education;
- (3) Design, implementation and assessment of emerging technologies (e.g. artificial intelligence, virtual reality, augmented reality) in higher education to meet the internationalization context;
- (4) Internationalization of curriculum development and implementation in higher education;
- (5) Teaching methodologies, theories and practices;
- (6) New trends in research in higher education





TRAINING COURSE ON

Capacity in writing and publishing international research

On October 30-31, 2025, at its premises, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully conducted a training course on **“Capacity in writing and publishing international research”** for academic staff and lecturers from different universities, colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and its neighboring provinces. This course was designed to equip participants with essential skills to produce high-quality academic writing for international publication. Participants learned how to structure research papers effectively, meet global journal standards, strengthen academic arguments, and navigate the publication process with confidence. Through practical guidance and expert-led sessions, the course aimed to strengthen participants’ capacity to contribute to the global research community.

To continue the success, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Hong Bang International University, conducted two two-day training courses on the same topic on November 27–28, 2025, and December 23-24, 2025. Each course welcomed over 40 academic staff and professionals. Throughout the training course, participants explored essential strategies for academic writing and international publishing, practiced applying these techniques to their own work, and engaged in discussions with peers and the trainer. Participants reported gaining enhanced knowledge and practical skills to support their research and publication efforts.



TRAINING COURSE ON Course outline design



On December 11–12, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a training course on “**Course outline design**” at its premises. The course provided participants with essential principles and practical approaches to developing effective, outcomes-based course syllabi. Through guided activities and discussion, participants strengthened their ability to design coherent learning outcomes, teaching activities, and assessments aligned with program objectives.



TRAINING COURSE ON

AI applications in designing creative teaching

On December 18-19, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully conducted a training course on “**AI applications in designing creative teaching**” at its premises. The training course was organized under the guidance of a team of trainers with expertise and experience in the field of AI applications in creative teaching at the Center. This course was designed to equip participants with advanced AI tools for effective in-class teaching and lecture creation.



January, 2026

Training course on “Data analysis in research”

Following the success of previous sessions in June and September, 2025, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with Lac Hong University, successfully convened the course on **“Data analysis in research”** for lecturers and academic staff from School of Languages in January 12-14, 2026. This updated edition placed strong emphasis on the practical use of statistical tools such as NVivo, SPSS, and Excel in educational research. In addition to core content, the program was tailored to Lac Hong University’s specific needs, ensuring that examples, datasets, and activities align closely with the institution’s academic and administrative context. Through this personalized approach, participants had an opportunity to enhance their ability to interpret data, present findings effectively, and apply data-driven decision-making in their work.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Training course on “AI applications in teaching and curriculum management”

From January 29 to 30, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC will host a training course on **“AI applications in teaching and curriculum management”** at its premises. The course integrates the latest ICT and AI tools to effectively support teaching, lesson planning, and classroom activities. Additionally, it aims to alleviate the administrative burden and enhance faculty productivity in curriculum development. Through hands-on activities and expert guidance, participants will gain the proficiency to apply these tools effectively in their classroom practice.

