



**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION  
SEAMEO REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER (SEAMEO RETRAC)**

# NEWSLETTER

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# Enhancing Research Capacity through Data Analysis Training

In response to the growing demand for data-driven research competencies in higher education, SEAMEO RETRAC, in partnership with Lac Hong University, conducted a training course on “Data Analysis in Research” from January 12 to 14, 2026 for the lecturers and academic staff from the Faculty of Foreign Languages. The course emphasized the practical use of widely adopted data analysis



tools, including NVivo, SPSS, and Excel, within the context of scientific research. Through hands-on activities, group discussions, and case analysis, participants enhanced their ability to analyze and interpret research data, present findings in a clear and logical manner, and effectively apply the tools acquired during the course to their research and teaching activities.

# AI in Education: Enhancing Teaching Design and Management Practices

The growing role of artificial intelligence in transforming education highlighted the need for educators to update their teaching and management practices. Against this context, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course titled “*AI Applications in Teaching and Management*” on January 29–30, 2026. The course targeted academic staff, lecturers, and professionals from universities, colleges, training centers, and educational institutions across the nation.

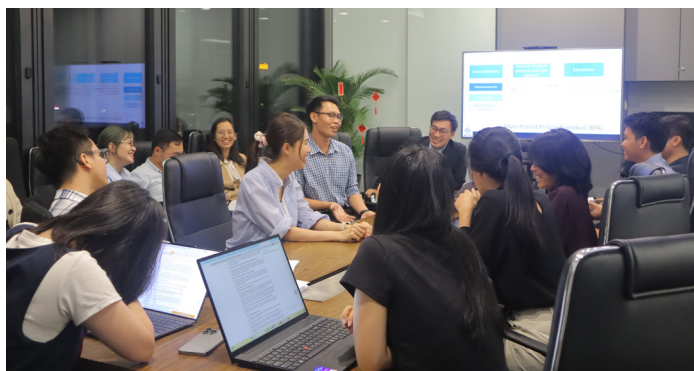


During the two-day program, participants explored key applications of artificial intelligence in education. The training focused on designing lectures, videos, and learning materials using AI tools, as well as developing classroom activities and student assessment methods. Participants also learned how to design, develop, and manage academic programs, including approaches to curriculum development and program evaluation.

The sessions provided practical insights into integrating AI into teaching and management practices, with guided activities that helped participants apply these tools to real educational contexts.

# Communicative English Training Course for Staff of Asia Counsel Vietnam Law Company Limited

The Communicative English Training Course for lawyers, specialists, and legal assistants of Asia Counsel Vietnam Law Company Limited was organized by SEAMEO RETRAC from September 16, 2025, to February 5, 2026. With a practical and learner-centered approach, the course focused on developing communication, listening and speaking, critical thinking, and presentation skills in professional settings. Through interactive discussions and simulated situations tailored to workplace communication needs, participants enhanced their confidence and effectiveness in using English at work, thereby supporting the professional development of personnel in the legal field.



## Leadership Capacity – The Key to Building Future-Ready Schools

The 14th SEAMEO–University of Tsukuba Symposium, themed “Empowering Learning Futures: Digital Transformation for Equitable and Sustainable Education,” was held on February 5–6, 2026, at University of Tsukuba. As part of the symposium, SEAMEO RETRAC participated in the expert panel discussion on “Future-Ready Educators and Schools.” The presentation highlighted the pivotal role of school leadership in driving educational innovation, particularly in the context of AI and digital transformation, which are accelerating the shift from traditional training models toward more reflective and contextualized approaches to professional learning.

**KEY LESSONS AND PRACTICES**

*To support its missions of improving educational leadership and management and teacher training in Vietnam and in the region, SEAMEO RETRAC has upgraded innovative platforms such as **CyberLearning** and **Tech4Teach**. These initiatives have been further enhanced to support blended and online learning, while improving administrative efficiency.*

**Bridging Policy-Practice Gaps**

*Leadership-driven environments for policy implementation*

**Pedagogy-First Technology Integration**

*Active learning prioritization*

**Strengthening Practice-Based Inquiry**

*Micro-teaching and action research for continuous improvement*

**Empowering Teachers Amid Digital Change**

*Human-in-the-loop agency with AI as a co-pilot*

**Promoting systemic, long-term Teacher Professional Development**

*Sustainable ecosystems for daily professional growth*

14th SEAMEO – University of Tsukuba **SYMPOSIUM**

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The presentation also proposed a reflective, flexible, and context-responsive approach to Teacher Professional Development (TPD), aligned with the practical realities and educational priorities of individual ASEAN countries. It further emphasized that a sustainable and innovative educational ecosystem can only thrive under the guidance of visionary and strategically minded institutional leaders.

# Advancing MEL and Policy Research Capacity at SEAMEO Workshops

The SEAMEO RETRAC participated in the 5th Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning (MEL) Strategic Workshop and the 3rd SEAMEO Policy Research Capacity Building Workshop, held on 9–10 February 2026 in Bangkok, Thailand. The events were organised by the SEAMEO Secretariat with support from the ASEAN-UK SAGE Programme.

At the Strategic Workshop, participants reviewed and assessed MEL data collected from SEAMEO Centres during the 2024/2025 period, examining progress against the SEAMEO Results Framework, addressing challenges in data collection and consolidation, and agreeing on improved methodologies for qualitative data gathering. The workshop also emphasised gender mainstreaming in MEL processes, including requirements for sex-disaggregated data and minimum standards for system-wide gender reporting. In addition, participants reviewed existing MEL processes, and proposed key directions and priority actions for the FY 2025/2026 cycle were also identified.



The 3rd SEAMEO Policy Research Capacity Building Workshop continued a series of initiatives launched since 2024 to enhance policy research and publication capacity across SEAMEO Centres. Building on previous workshops, this session focused on strengthening participants' ability to translate research findings, data, and MEL evidence into concise, policy-oriented documents such as policy briefs, notes, and discussion papers. Through practical exercises and guided discussions, participants developed skills in analysing evidence, structuring policy documents, and applying quality criteria to ensure relevance and usability for policymakers. The workshop contributes to improving the visibility and policy impact of research outputs across the SEAMEO network, supporting more informed policy dialogue at both national and regional levels.



## SEAMEO RETRAC Expands International Partnerships at APAIE 2026

SEAMEO RETRAC participated in the “Association of Southeast Asian Institutions of Higher Learning (APAIE) 2026 Conference and Exhibition,” one of the Asia-Pacific’s leading platforms for international higher education collaboration. At the event, SEAMEO RETRAC representatives attended plenary sessions, thematic workshops, and panel discussions on key issues shaping higher education, including emerging trends in internationalization, digital transformation and the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in university governance and teaching, international accreditation and quality assurance frameworks, as well as regional cooperation models and exchange programs for students and faculty.

Through bilateral meetings with universities and educational organizations from Canada, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, and Türkiye, the Centre exchanged initiatives on leadership and management program development, research, academic exchange, international training, and expanding collaboration between Hong Kong and Southeast Asia. The event further reaffirmed SEAMEO RETRAC’s role as a trusted hub in educational leadership and management, contributing actively to the transformation and global integration of education systems in Southeast Asia.



## Celebrating International Women’s Day

On the occasion of International Women’s Day 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a series of meaningful activities for young learners in the Kiddy Programs, aiming to honor the beloved women in their lives and promote the values of love and gratitude.

The activities were thoughtfully tailored to different age groups. Kindergarten students engaged in creative coloring and making handmade candy flowers. Students aged from 7 to 10 participated in word-search games combined with crafting and writing heartfelt messages. At

the Youngsters level, students showcased their creativity through pop-up cards with meaningful wishes dedicated to their mothers, teachers, and other special women. Through these activities, students not only enhanced their language skills but also developed empathy, gratitude, and the ability to express their feelings in a positive way.



## Innovative Teaching Methods in Higher Education

On March 26–27, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training course titled “Innovative Teaching Approach in Higher Education” with the aim of supporting university lecturers in enhancing their capacity to design and implement active teaching approaches in higher education.



The course introduced participants to the design and implementation of project-based learning and case-method teaching, while also exploring ways to integrate blended learning into classroom instruction. In addition, the training covered the application of information and communication technology in lesson design, instructional delivery, and student assessment.

Through interactive activities, hands-on practice, and direct discussions, participants gained practical experience, teaching tools, and instructional strategies to improve teaching effectiveness and foster more student-centered learning environments.

## Teaching Assistant Training for the Children’s English Program 2026

To enhance teaching quality and ensure consistency in classroom support, SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training workshop for Teaching Assistants of the Children’s English Program in late March 2026.

The workshop focused on strengthening classroom support skills, student management, coordination with teachers, as well as professional conduct, communication skills, and the handling of pedagogical situations for the Teaching Assistant team at the Center.

Through discussions, scenario-based activities, and experience sharing, the Teaching Assistants had the opportunity to enhance their professional competencies and gain a clearer understanding of their role in building a positive, friendly, and effective learning environment for students.





# SEAMEO RETRAC

## ISO 9001:2015



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Add: 35 Le Thanh Ton st., Sai Gon Ward, HCM City, Vietnam      Tel: (84-28) 3823 2174 – 3824 5618  
Email: [contact@vnseameo.org](mailto:contact@vnseameo.org)      Website: [www.vnseameo.org](http://www.vnseameo.org)