SEAMEO RETRAC

DIVISION OF EDUCATION

NEWS IN BRIEF

QUARTER II-III, 2026 - VOLUME 37



HIGHLIGHT EVENTS

Training Course on

"Enhancing leadership and management capacity in general education"

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Regional Training Course on

"Capacity building in leadership and management in higher education"

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RECENT EVENTS

APRIL

Training course on
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"Data analysis in scientific research"
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RECENT EVENTS

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TRAINING COURSE ON

Enhancing leadership and management capacity in general education

SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the Institute for Educational Administration and Development (IFEAD), organized the training course on "Enhancing leadership, management, and teaching capacity in education" from April 20-23, 2026, in Vientiane, Laos. The training course was designed to equip education professionals with essential skills in innovative teaching methods, leadership and management strategies, as well as effective communication to enhance the quality of education.



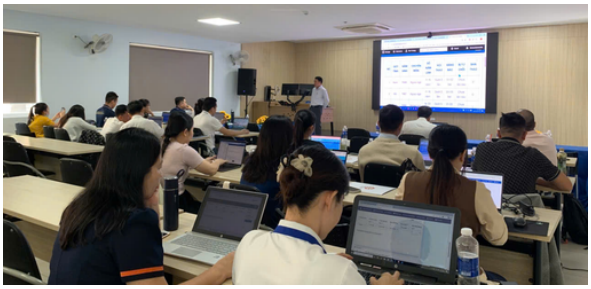




Throughout the course, participants engaged in in-depth training sessions, interactive discussions, and practical activities, gaining valuable knowledge and practical strategies that could be applied to their professional work. The training course provided a meaningful learning experience while fostering collaboration and innovation in education across the region.

TRAINING SERIES ON
Data analysis in scientific research

From April 20-22, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the training course on “Data analysis in scientific research” at its Le Thanh Ton premises. The course was designed for lecturers and academic staff from higher educational and higher educational institutions, as well as individuals interested in the field from Ho Chi Minh City and neighboring provinces. The program combined theoretical knowledge with practical exercises, providing participants with opportunities to explore data analysis tools through hands-on activities and group discussions. Through the course, participants gained valuable knowledge and strengthened their skills to further develop their research careers.





Following the success of the April session, SEAMEO RETRAC organized another session of the training course on “Data analysis in scientific research” from August 19-21, 2026, at the campus. Updated with the latest tools, the second session continued to equip participants with practical knowledge and skills in analyzing, processing, and interpreting research data. Through a combination of theoretical learning, practical exercises, and discussions, participants had the opportunity to strengthen their research methodology and enhance their ability to apply data analysis tools in academic and research activities.

TRAINING COURSE ON
AI applications in office administration



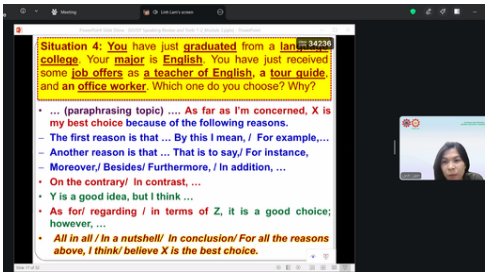


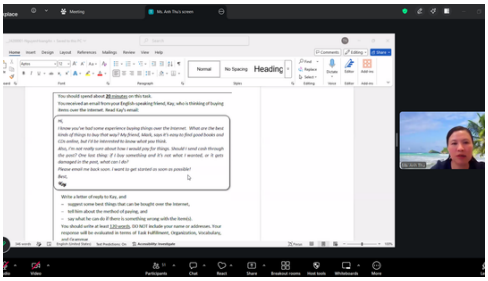
On April 21-22, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC organized the training course on “AI applications in administrative work and office management” for professionals and staff from higher educational institutions from Ho Chi Minh City institutions and neighboring provinces . The course focused on exploring the potential of artificial intelligence (AI) in supporting administrative tasks, information management, and office operations, while helping participants identify practical ways to integrate AI into their daily work. Through guided sessions and hands-on activities, participants had the opportunity to explore AI tools for real-world administrative tasks, contributing to greater efficiency, streamlined workflows, and improved productivity.

ONLINE TRAINING COURSE ON

English proficiency enhancement program - VSTEP B2

From May 5 to June 27, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the University of Science, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (VNU-HCM), conducted the online training course on "Enhancing foreign language competence according to the VSTEP standard." The course was organized to support participants in strengthening their foreign language proficiency in alignment with the VSTEP - B2 level framework, while enhancing their ability to apply language skills in academic, professional, and workplace contexts. Through a structured learning program, participants had opportunities to develop essential language competencies and prepare more effectively for VSTEP - B2 level proficiency assessment.





TRAINING COURSE ON

AI applications in office administration



SEAMEO RETRAC organized the training course on "AI applications in office management" on May 18–19, 2026, for almost 30 lecturers and academic staff of faculty of foreign languages, Ho Chi Minh City University of Foreign Languages and Information Technology (HUFLIT). The course introduced practical applications of artificial intelligence (AI) in office administration and management, with a focus on improving work efficiency and streamlining administrative processes. Through guided sessions and hands-on activities, participants explored ways to apply AI tools to practical workplace tasks, helping enhance productivity and overall work performance. Upon completion of the training course, all participants received certificates.







TRAINING COURSE ON

Writing and publishing international research papers

From June 25-26, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the training course on “Writing and publishing international research papers” for lecturers and academic staff from universities and colleges in Ho Chi Minh City and neighboring provinces. The course was designed to equip participants with essential skills for developing high-quality academic papers that meet international publication requirements. Participants were guided on how to structure research papers effectively, meet international journal standards, strengthen academic arguments, and navigate the publication process with greater confidence. Through practical sessions led by experienced instructors, the training course aimed to strengthen participants’ capacity to contribute to the global research community.









Following the success of the June session, SEAMEO RETRAC organized another session of the training course on “Writing and publishing international research papers” from August 27-28, 2026. Covering the same theme and updated content, the second courses provided participants with further opportunities to develop essential skills in writing, refining, and publishing research papers in international journals. Through a combination of expert guidance and practical activities, participants strengthened their academic writing skills, improved the quality of their research papers, and gained greater confidence in the international publication process.

REGIONAL TRAINING COURSE

Capacity building in leadership and management in higher education

From July 14 to 17, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully conducted a regional training course entitled “Capacity building in leadership and management in higher education,” welcoming nearly 35 educational leaders, managers, and administrators from higher education institutions in Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam. The program provided a valuable opportunity to foster regional cooperation and academic exchange, enabling participants to share professional experiences, discuss challenges, and explore innovative approaches to institutional management. Through interactive learning activities, collaborative discussions, and real-world case studies, the training aimed to enhance participants’ leadership and management competencies, equipping them to drive educational innovation and promote institutional development across the region.







TRAINING COURSE ON

Developing research proposals with an international orientation









SEAMEO RETRAC organized the training course on "Developing research proposals with an international orientation" on July 23-24, 2026, aiming to strengthen participants' ability to develop and refine research ideas. Updated with the latest trend in research, the program guided participants through key stages of developing a structured research proposal, including identifying research problems, defining research objectives and questions, selecting appropriate methodologies, and organizing the overall proposal. Through a combination of expert discussions and practical exercises, participants were able to further develop their research ideas and align their proposals with international research practices and expectations.

TRAINING COURSE ON

AI applications in student learning assessment

As AI continues to transform the education sector, SEAMEO RETRAC, in collaboration with the University of Science - VNU, HCMC, organized the training course on "AI applications in student learning assessment" on August 20-21, 2026. The program focused on exploring the use of AI tools to support test design, develop assessment content, and improve the effectiveness of measuring student learning outcomes. In addition to gaining practical insights into AI applications, participants had opportunities to discuss appropriate approaches to integrating AI into assessment practices, with a view to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of teaching and learning.





TRAINING COURSE ON

Data analysis in scientific research

SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the training course on "Data analysis in scientific research" from August 19 to 21, 2026, with the participation of 30 learners. The program combined theoretical knowledge with hands-on computer-based practice, focusing on qualitative and quantitative data analysis methods and the application of Taguette, R and RStudio in research data processing and analysis. Through practical exercises and research-based case studies, participants gained essential knowledge and skills in data collection, processing, analysis, and presentation, thereby enhancing their research capacity and supporting the application of data analysis in their professional activities.





TRAINING COURSE ON

Writing and publishing international research papers



Following the success of the June session, SEAMEO RETRAC organized another session of the training course on "Writing and publishing international research papers" from August 27-28, 2026. Covering the same theme and updated content, the second courses provided participants with further opportunities to develop essential skills in writing, refining, and publishing research papers in international journals. Through a combination of expert guidance and practical activities, participants strengthened their academic writing skills, improved the quality of their research papers, and gained greater confidence in the international publication process.







SUB-WORKSHOP

Building pathways to peace through GCED in Southeast Asia

From September 8-10, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized a sub-workshop on “Building pathways for peace through GCED in Southeast Asia” for 30 participants from Southeast Asian countries. The course served as a platform for regional learning and collaboration, where participants explored the core principles of GCED, discussed the interconnections between global citizenship, peace, social justice, and sustainable development, and exchanged experiences in addressing regional challenges.



Through interactive sessions, group discussions, and practical activities, the course enhanced participants’ understanding and capabilities in designing educational initiatives that foster critical thinking, empathy, intercultural competence, and a shared commitment to building peaceful and inclusive communities across Southeast Asia.









TRAINING COURSE ON

Branding in higher education

SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a two-day training course on “Branding in higher education” on September 22-23, 2026, for lecturers and staff responsible for branding and brand management from universities and educational institutions. The course provided participants with practical knowledge and approaches to building, managing, and developing institutional brands in higher education. The sessions focused on brand positioning and evaluation, communication strategies, social media applications, crisis communication management, and strategic communication planning. Through practical case studies, discussions, and hands-on activities, participants gained insights and skills to strengthen their institutions’ brand identity, image, and reputation.







EDUCATIONAL FORUM 2026

Educating for future readiness: Empowering educators and leveraging innovation for future skills



On September 28, 2026, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully organized the Educational forum 2026 on “Educating for future readiness: Empowering educators and leveraging innovation for future skills” at its premises, from 13:30 to 17:00 (GMT +7/Vietnam time) through Zoom.

The forum, conducted back-to-back with SEAMEO RETRAC’s 29th 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 promoting future-ready education through six key sub-themes:

1. Innovative approaches and/or practices of leadership and management in education in the digital transformation context;
2. Promoting digital literacy for educators, including essential digital tools and online safety skills;
3. Measuring future readiness: tools for assessing and tracking skills for educators and students;
4. Future skills frameworks: developing and evaluating 4.0 curricula for critical thinking, creativity and collaboration;
5. Bridging urban-rural gaps/divides through policies, strategies and practices to close education gaps across Southeast Asian urban and rural areas;
6. Enhancing sustainable EdTech innovations by applying green technology for eco-friendly and resilient classrooms.

Through the sharing of regional experiences, innovative practices, and professional insights, the forum highlighted the important role of empowered educators and educational innovation in developing future-ready education systems. It also fostered regional dialogue and collaboration toward equipping educators and learners with the essential skills and competencies needed to navigate an increasingly dynamic and technology-driven world.



With 300 participants joining online from Southeast Asia and beyond, the forum served as a valuable opportunity to strengthen regional connections, exchange educational insights, and promote collaborative efforts toward future-ready education.







UPCOMING EVENTS

Date	Event	Main focus
October 12-13/2026	Pre-Conference Workshop: **"Internationalization in action: Developing leadership competencies for higher education"**	*As internationalization plays an increasingly important role in the development of higher education, leadership and management competencies are essential for educational institutions to adapt and integrate effectively into the global landscape. Under this year's theme, higher education leaders, administrators, experts, and practitioners have the opportunity to exchange ideas and share experiences on key topics, including the context and trends of internationalization in higher education; developing leadership competencies to foster integration and create positive impact; leading change and engaging stakeholders; leadership in multicultural environments and international collaboration; self-assessment and reflection on leadership competencies; and developing individual leadership action plans.*
October 14-15, 2026	International conference on **"Leadership and management capacity building in higher education: Towards innovation in the AI era"**	*The rapid development of artificial intelligence presents new demands for higher education leadership and management. Under this year's conference theme, leaders, administrators, scholars, researchers, and educational experts have the opportunity to exchange views on key topics: educational policy, leadership, management, and administration; innovative teaching, personalized learning, and inclusion; design, implementation, and assessment of emerging technologies; curriculum development; quality assurance and accreditation; research on technology integration; assessment of student learning performance; as well as faculty readiness and continuing professional development for AI applications.*
October 22-23, 2026	Training course on "**Branding in higher education"**	*Amid growing competition and international integration, branding plays an important role in strengthening the position and reputation of higher education institutions. Through the training course, participants had the opportunity to explore and practice key areas, including the role and value of branding in education; approaches to building, managing, and positioning institutional brands; the application of communication tools; strategic communication planning; communication management and crisis response; and the analysis of practical cases in educational branding.*
December 07-09, 2026	Training course on **"Data analysis in scientific research"**	*As part of its ongoing series of training activities on research methodologies, this training course focuses on data processing and analysis in scientific research. The program aims to support lecturers, academic staff, and researchers in strengthening their data analysis skills while enhancing their ability to apply appropriate tools and methods throughout the research process and in presenting research findings.*