48th SEAMEO Council Conference
Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand
6-9 May 2015

Final Report
Plenary Sessions
SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION

48th SEAMEO Council Conference

Plenary Sessions

FINAL REPORT

Convened by
Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, Thailand
at Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand
6-9 May 2015
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I. Introduction

1 The Ministry of Education, Thailand, in cooperation with the SEAMEO Secretariat, convened the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference at Chonburi, Thailand from 6-9 May 2015.

2 A total of 199 participants representing 11 SEAMEO Member Countries, two Associate Member Countries, two Affiliate Members, nine partners/observers, 21 SEAMEO Regional Centres, and the SEAMEO Secretariat participated in the Meeting.

3 The List of Participants is attached as Appendix I.

II. Opening Ceremony

A. Opening Speech by the SEAMEO Council President

4 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam as SEAMEO Council President welcomed everyone to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference organized in Chonburi, Thailand. The SEAMEO Council President then expressed appreciation to Thailand as host country of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference and H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand as well as the staff of the Ministry of Education Thailand for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality.

5 The SEAMEO Council President mentioned that in 2015, SEAMEO has reached its golden age of 50. Being a regional intergovernmental organization established among the Southeast Asian countries, SEAMEO has displayed its significant role in strengthening regional understanding and cooperation in education, science and culture to ensure a better quality of life for the people of Southeast Asia. Over half a century of existence, the Organization has steadily grown to include 11 Member Countries, eight Associate Member Countries, three Affiliate Members, and 21 Regional Centres. In addition, SEAMEO has maintained collaborations with more than 20 entities including United Nations agencies, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations, ministries of education of non-SEAMEO countries, research institutions and other regional and national institutions. This expansion is vivid evidence that the Organization is now better positioned to accomplish its mandate as the leading regional body in promoting cooperation in education, science and culture in Southeast Asia.

6 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan recalled that during the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference, the SEAMEO Members adopted the SEAMEO’s Statement on SEAMEO’s Strategic Collaboration towards Regional Development. The Statement will serve as SEAMEO’s guidelines in pursuing and enhancing collaboration to move forward the Golden SEAMEO vision of the Organization. The 47th SEAMEO Council Conference also marked the launch of the SEAMEO flagship project called “SEAMEO College” which introduces a
platform for high-level discussions on forward-looking issues and concerns that will help prepare Southeast Asia for the challenges of the future, and support the ASEAN community.

7 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan stated that last year, the Ministers of Education and Heads of Delegations of the SEAMEO Member States gathered in Vientiane, Lao PDR, for the Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM). Within the framework of the SEAMEO College initiative, the SDEM collectively reflected on and reviewed the progress made in achieving the current global goals in education in order to set the Southeast Asia’s agenda on education development beyond 2015. The SDEM agreed to adopt the Joint Statement on Education Agenda for Southeast Asia (2015-2035) and the seven key priority areas to be pursued by SEAMEO in the next twenty years, namely: (1) Promoting early childhood care and education; (2) Addressing barriers to inclusion and access to basic learning opportunities for all learners particularly for those out-of-school or over-aged children in primary schools; (3) Preparing schools leaders, teachers, students and local communities towards resiliency in the face of emergencies; (4) Promoting technical and vocational education and training among learners and their parents; (5) Reforming teacher education and making teaching profession the first choice; (6) Harmonizing higher education and research; and (7) Adopting a truly 21st Century curriculum. This Joint Statement supports the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2011-2020, and SEAMEO’s Statement on SEAMEO’s Strategic Collaboration towards Regional Development signed in 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

8 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan elaborated that the landscape beyond 2015 is more challenging, calling for greater efforts from all SEAMEO stakeholders. Together SEAMEO will remain an effective mechanism in addressing cross-cutting issues in development of human resources in Southeast Asia, promoting the region’s culture and traditions, and developing ASEANness among the citizens of the region.

9 The SEAMEO Council President stated that in 1992, Vietnam became a full-fledged member of SEAMEO. During those 23 years of working together in the SEAMEO family, Vietnam has made important contributions to the Organization’s evolution and regional cooperation. As an active and responsible member of SEAMEO, Vietnam is pleased to reiterate her commitment to SEAMEO and offer her full cooperation and support on SEAMEO initiatives. Vietnam affirms the country hosting and giving full support to two of the Organization’s twenty one Regional Centres, namely SEAMEO Regional Training Centre (SEAMEO RETRAC) and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning (SEAMEO CELLL).

10 The SEAMEO Council President also stated that as Vietnam’s term of presidency comes to an end, the leadership of SEAMEO Council in the past two years was among his most rewarding and pleasing tasks and was privileged to undertake. The visits to SEAMEO Member Countries and the regional centres revealed a much broader scope and challenge for levelling up Southeast Asia’s human resources.

11 Lastly, the SEAMEO Council President expressed his sincere thanks to the distinguished Members of the Council, Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat and staff, the SEAMEO Regional Centre Directors and staff for the warm hospitality and cooperation extended to him during his visits to the Member Countries and Regional Centres in his capacity as SEAMEO Council President. Additionally, the SEAMEO Council President thanked all those who have been working with SEAMEO to bring quality human resource development to the region.

12 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan concluded by congratulating SEAMEO for all of its 50 years of service to Southeast Asia, and wished that the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference be a successful and productive conference.
The text of the Opening Speech is attached as Appendix II.

B. Welcome Speech and Official Opening by the Minister of Education Thailand

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand as SEAMEO Council Vice President and representing Prime Minister of Thailand warmly welcomed all delegations to the Conference.

He reminded all delegates about the importance of the SEAMEO Council Conference as being a unique platform for educational policy makers of SEAMEO Member Countries to discuss and formulate policies in the region. Therefore, on behalf of the Thai Government, he extended his warmest greetings to all delegates at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai highlighted that this year 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO. In that connection, he recalled SEAMEO’s successful implementation of projects and activities beneficial to educational development in the Southeast Asian region. Additionally, he expressed his appreciation for SEAMEO’s past success and his confidence in the future collaboration of SEAMEO Member Countries in achieving the organization’s current and future goals.

Further, he insisted on the occasion of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference to review SEAMEO achievements and progress as well as to take the opportunity of these strategic fora to develop further policies in education, science and culture in the Southeast Asian region.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai emphasized the relevance of the Ministerial Round Table Meeting on the theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” as it will be an opportunity to exchange opinions, formulate strategic policies and future directions for SEAMEO.

The Minister of Education of Thailand recognized the important role of long-lasting collaboration between Thailand and other Member Countries, as well as with international organizations such as SEAMEO in educational development. H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai insisted on the country’s aspirations to decrease social disparity by providing educational access with equity and equality; to develop the quality and standards of educational system and curriculum; to nurture children and youth with the senses of morality, discipline and social responsibilities; and to promote the teaching profession by upgrading the teacher status.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai reconfirmed Thailand’s engagement in developing the educational sector, emphasizing the importance of familiarizing citizens and youth with new technologies and fully embracing the digital age. Reference was made on the willingness to prepare youth to become good Thai citizens, focusing on morality, capabilities, life skills, and social skills, as well as becoming global citizens, in line with the regional community goals.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai encouraged the SEAMEO Member Countries to pursue their efforts in exchanging knowledge and experiences in dealing with emerging problems and challenges in education. In addition, he reiterated the country’s ambition to continue developing human resources in order to effectively address the challenges related to globalization.
The Minister also reminded the audience about the past outstanding leaders who played important roles in supporting the work of SEAMEO and have been paving strong foundations for SEAMEO during the past 50 years. In recognition for their contributions, six SEAMEO Recognition Awards will be presented to these leaders and H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai warmly congratulated and thanked these leaders for their important role in the organization.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai warmly welcomed once again all the delegates to Thailand and invited them to enjoy the Chonburi Province.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai declared open the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference and wished for a great success in all its deliberations.

The text of the Welcome and Official Opening Speech is attached as Appendix III.

C. Launch of SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Celebration

The SEAMEO 50th Anniversary celebration was launched with a video presentation which focused on the reflection of educators, teachers and students related to their achievements and aspirations based on their experiences with SEAMEO.

D. SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Recognition Award

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand presented the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Recognition Award to six award recipients. This award honors six individuals for their sheer dedication and involvement in education, science and culture, contributing towards a better quality of life in Southeast Asia. The recipients were as follows:

i) H E Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia Dr Hj Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Hj Awang Umar, Brunei Darussalam;

ii) Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo, Indonesia;

iii) Dato Dr Ahamad bin Sipon, Malaysia;

iv) Prof Dr Erlinda C Pefianco, Philippines;

v) Prof Dr Adul Wichiencharoen, Thailand (represented by Mr Art Wichiencharoen, son of Prof Dr Adul Wichiencharoen); and

vi) Mr Tran Ba Viet Dzung, Vietnam.

III. Plenary Session 1 – Opening Formalities

A. Opening Remarks and Report by the SEAMEO Council President

H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam as SEAMEO Council President extended his profound gratitude for the support given by the SEAMEO Ministers of Education, Centres and the Secretariat during his term as SEAMEO Council President. He also expressed deep appreciation to all SEAMEO Member Countries for the warm welcome and excellent hospitality accorded to him during his visits. During the visits, the SEAMEO Council President stated that he acquired a better and deeper understanding on the regional centres and had effective discussions with the Centres’
Directors and staff. Thus, H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan conveyed congratulations to the regional Centres for their achievements and efforts in realizing the Golden SEAMEO Vision and Post-2015 Education Agenda.

29 The SEAMEO Council President reiterated that SDEM held in September, 2014 has identified seven priorities for SEAMEO (2015-2035). In this context, SEAMEO Regional Centres will find ways to further integrate their agenda and activities with these priorities and join hands to realize these priorities in the Post 2015 Education Agenda. Further, Centres have successfully established a supporting relationship which enables information and experience exchange and collaboration to implement joint activities. This is a significant factor that contributes to the success of each Centre.

30 The SEAMEO Council President mentioned that in the discussions with Ministers of Education from Cambodia, Lao PDR and Timor Leste, on behalf of the Council, he encouraged for the establishment of new regional Centres in these countries. These Centres would help strengthen the linkage among the Member Countries. In the face of the current global economy, the regional Centres continue to address various resources and financial constraints in implementing programmes, projects and expanding their activities. Therefore, regional Centres should develop their programmes and activities in a way that meet the social needs and enable them to seek funding and to generate income, thus, creating a solid foundation for the existence and development of each centre. In addition, these activities shall be in line with the Centres’ regulations and operational rules.

31 The SEAMEO Council President then announced that during his SEAMEO Presidency term from 2013-2015, SEAMEO has continuously widen the cooperation network with other continents such as with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI). Such cooperation also lays a foundation for SEAMEO to expand its network beyond the Southeast Asia region which will enhance our sustainability and reputation.

32 The SEAMEO Council President again highlighted that this year we are celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO with the theme “Education for Sustainable Development”. He called for the support and active participation of all Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Member Countries, Affiliate Members, and regional Centres to make this SEAMEO’s golden anniversary a meaningful and memorable event.

33 H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan emphasized that the SEAMEO Council Conference has truly become a venue for meeting and exchanging experience and ideas among leaders in education of SEAMEO Member Countries. Thus, he would like to share with his fellow Ministers and participants the strategic objectives of Vietnamese education and the efforts in making regional and international integration. The Vietnamese Government has issued resolutions on fundamental and comprehensive education and training reform with defined objectives which have been generating deep-rooted and drastic changes in the quality and effectiveness of education and training, and better responding to the construction and protection of the fatherland as well as the needs for education of the citizens. This reform takes an educational approach towards comprehensive development for Vietnamese people to unleash the potential and creativity of each and every individual; to love one’s own family, country and people; to lead a responsible life and an effective job; to build an open education that promotes real, practical learning and working, good learning and teaching and good management; to achieve suitable educational structure and method adhering to establishing a learning society; to maintain requirements for quality improvement; to standardize, modernize, democratize, socialize and internationalize the educational and training system; and to preserve national identity. Vietnamese education will strive for regional excellence by the year of 2030.
HE Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan stated that being the President of SEAMEO Council for the last 2 years has been both a great honour and a significant responsibility for the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam. There is so much work left to be done and he would like to put his trust to his successor. With over 20 years of being a member of SEAMEO, HE Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan expressed assurance that Vietnam has and will always deliver on the commitments, and actively contribute to the development of education, science, and culture of the region.

Lastly, the HE Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan presented a video presentation on key moments and highlights in his presidency term from March 2013 to May 2015.

The text of the Opening Remarks and Report is attached as Appendix IV.

B. Election of the SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

HE Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam nominated HE Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand, as President of the SEAMEO Council and Chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

HE Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister of Education, Singapore seconded the nomination. The Minister of Education Thailand was unanimously elected as the SEAMEO Council President and Chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

C. Election of the SEAMEO Council Vice President and the Vice Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

HE Dato’ Seri Idris Jusoh, Minister of Education II, Malaysia nominated HE Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia as Vice President of the SEAMEO Council and Vice Chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

HE Dr Nath Bunroeun, Secretary of State (Deputy Minister) of Education, Youth and Sport, Cambodia seconded the nomination. The Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia was unanimously elected as Vice President of the SEAMEO Council and Vice Chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

D. Presentation of Testimonial Plaque to the Outgoing SEAMEO Council President

Prior to taking the chairmanship of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, HE Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand, presented a testimonial plaque to HE Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam, in appreciation of his service and accomplishments during his term as SEAMEO Council President (2013-2015).

E. Remarks of the Newly-Elected SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson

HE Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand, as the new SEAMEO Council President and Chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference greeted the delegations. He said that he was very honoured to be elected as the President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairman of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. He thanked HE Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam as the President of the 47th SEAMEO Council for his tireless efforts and dedication during the last two years. He also congratulated HE Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture,
Indonesia on being elected as Vice President of the SEAMEO Council and 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

43 H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai reaffirmed his commitment and dedication in assuring the continuity of his predecessor’s good work and is ready to coordinate with SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centres, Associate and Affiliate Members and Partners, as well as with the international community. He warmly welcomed and congratulated the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) for its new Membership as a SEAMEO Affiliate Member. The engagement of the CEAIE will further strengthen the SEAMEO efforts in improving education, science and culture, especially as it is in line with the set objectives of SEAMEO in developing human resources in the region.

44 The SEAMEO Council President highlighted that the year 2015 is a very important year for SEAMEO and all Member Countries. It is the year to celebrate 50 years of establishment of SEAMEO as an organization. The achievements of SEAMEO during the past 50 years reflect the strong commitment and the synergies between the SEAMEO Member Countries and Centres in driving forward human resources development. He reiterated his readiness to cooperate with all the SEAMEO Member Countries and SEAMEO Regional Centres and other international organizations.

45 The SEAMEO Council President emphasized the relevance and role of new technologies to enhance education and pointed out the benefits of distance education as being a significant channel for expanding learning to the least accessible, and also effectively addressing the challenges related to globalization. Therefore, the Policy Forum Session of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference with the theme "Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens" will be a good platform for sharing best practices and knowledge among Member Countries.

46 The SEAMEO Council President also emphasized Thailand’s priority in teacher education, and the Princess Maha Charkri Award (PMCA) yearly recognizes outstanding teachers who demonstrated exceptional dedication in the exercise of their duties. This year awarding ceremony will be held on 2 October in Bangkok.

47 Reference was made by the SEAMEO Council President on the Education for All (EFA) Post-2015 Education Agenda and the commitment of all SEAMEO Member Countries to the goals of the Agenda. The potential of the 21 SEAMEO Centres, Associate and Affiliate Members and partners is immense and he encouraged further collaboration and partnerships.

48 The SEAMEO Council President further emphasized the relevance of the Ministerial Roundtable with the theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” as a timely opportunity for the Ministers to discuss on the future directions of SEAMEO based on the recommendations from the SEAMEO College Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) in September 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR. The recommended priority areas are altogether seven and they are: (1) Early childhood care and education, (2) Addressing barriers to inclusion, (3) Resiliency in the face of emergencies, (4) Promoting technical and vocational education and training (TVET), (5) Teacher Education, (6) Harmonization in higher education and research, and (7) Adopting a 21st Century curriculum.

49 Lastly, H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai reaffirmed his commitment as the newly elected President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference to continue working in close collaboration with the SEAMEO Member Countries and Centres, SEAMEO Associate Members and Affiliate Members and partners to further
improve quality of education in the region. The SEAMEO Council President thanked the members of 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

50 The text of the Remarks is attached as Appendix V.

F. Adoption of Agenda and Programme

51 The Chair requested the SEAMEO Secretariat Director to present the proposed agenda and programme of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference and invited the Council Members for any additional item or comment. There was no other item added. The agenda and programme for the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference were adopted as proposed by the Secretariat.

52 The Agenda and Programme is attached as Appendix VI.

G. Opening Statements by Heads of Delegation of SEAMEO Member Countries

53 The opening statements were delivered by the Heads of Delegation of SEAMEO Member Countries:

1) Brunei Darussalam
H E Mr Pehin Abu Bakar Apong
Minister
Ministry of Education

2) Cambodia
H E Dr Nath Bunroeun
Secretary of State (Deputy Minister)
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport

3) Indonesia
H E Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan
Minister
Ministry of Education and Culture

4) Lao PDR
H E Madame Sengdeuane Lachanthaboune
Deputy Minister
Ministry of Education and Sports

5) Malaysia
H E Dato’ Seri Idris Jusoh
Minister of Education II
Ministry of Education

6) Myanmar
H E Dr Zaw Min Aung
Deputy Minister of Education
Ministry of Education

7) Philippines
H E Atty Alberto Jesus Tiongson Muyot
Undersecretary (Deputy Minister)
Department of Education

8) Singapore
H E Mr Heng Swee Keat
Minister
Ministry of Education
9) Timor Leste

H E Mr Fernando La Sama de Araujo
Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs and Minister of Education
Ministry of Coordinating for Social Affairs and Education

54 The text of the Opening Statements is attached as Appendix VII.

H. Presentation of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Certificate to China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)

55 H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, 48th SEAMEO Council President presented the certificate of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership to Madame Zhou Yan, Deputy Secretary General, China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) and therefore confirmed the new membership of the CEAIE as an affiliate member of SEAMEO.

IV. Plenary Session 2 – Reports and Proposals

A. Matters for Acknowledgement (MC-48/WP/1)

56 The working paper on Matters for Acknowledgement was presented by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference of the position changes on the Ministerial levels in SEAMEO Member Countries.

Resolution

57 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note of the appointment of H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand;

b) expressed gratitude and deep appreciation to H E Mr Chaturon Chaisang, the former Minister of Education, Thailand;

c) took note of the appointment of H E Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia;

d) expressed gratitude and deep appreciation to H E Prof Dr Mohammad Nuh DEA, the former Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia;

e) took note of the appointment of H E Mr Fernando Lasama de Araujo, Coordinating Minister for Social Affairs and Minister of Education, Timor Leste; and

f) expressed gratitude and deep appreciation to H E Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas, the former Minister of Education, Timor Leste.
B. Confirmation of Ad Referendum Resolutions of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference (MC-48/WP/2-25)

1) Follow-up Actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by Referendum on Working Papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session (MC-48/WP/2)

58 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the follow-up actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by referendum in July 2014 on 28 working papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session.

59 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session took note of the Follow-up Actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by referendum in July 2014 on 28 working papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session, and endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

60 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the follow-up actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by referendum in July 2014 on 28 working papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session.

2) Summary of Agreements of the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014 and Follow-up Actions (MC-48/WP/3)

61 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the Agreements reached during the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014 held from 24 to 26 June 2014, in Bangkok, Thailand. The paper reported in detail the actions taken by the SEAMEO Units and other parties concerned on agreements reached at the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014.

62 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note of the Agreements reached during the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014 and the actions taken by the SEAMEO Units and parties concerned, and endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

63 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the Agreements reached during the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014 and the follow-up actions by the SEAMEO Units and parties concerned.

3) Status and Utilization of Associate Membership Contributions to the SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/4)

64 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat for information of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. This working paper presented the annual contributions to the SEAMEO Secretariat of five active SEAMEO Associate Members, namely Australia, Canada, Germany, New Zealand, and Spain to the SEAMEO Secretariat to be utilized according to the approved guidelines.
65 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note and endorsed the submission of the Status and Utilization of Associate Membership Contributions to the SEAMEO Secretariat for the FY2013/2014 to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information; and

b) expressed appreciation to the SEAMEO Associate Members for their generous support to the Organization.

Resolution

66 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the Status and Utilization of Associate Membership Contributions to the SEAMEO Secretariat for the FY2013/2014 and expresses appreciation for the Associate Members' generous support to the Organization.

4) Status and Utilization of Thailand's Additional Contribution to the SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/5)

67 This working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat for information of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

68 Thailand's additional contribution is the annual contribution from the Government of Thailand over and above Thailand's annual membership contribution according to the agreed contribution index for Member Countries' contribution to SEAMEO Secretariat Operational Budget up to FY1996/1997. Due to the economic situation, the Government of Thailand stopped the additional financial assistance to the SEAMEO Secretariat from FY1997/1998. The guidelines for utilization of Thailand's additional contribution were approved by the SEAMEO Council at its 18th SEAMEO Council Conference in 1983 and were amended at the 20th High Officials Meeting in 1997 by the delegate from Thailand.

69 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note and endorsed the submission of the Status and Utilization of Thailand's Additional Contributions to SEAMEO Secretariat for FY2013/2014 to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

70 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the Status and Utilization of Thailand's Additional Contribution to the SEAMEO Secretariat for the FY2013/2014 and expressed appreciation for the Thai Government's generous support to the Organization.

5) Status of the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund (MC-48/WP/6)

71 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat for information of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. The SEAMEO Educational Development Fund (EDF) was set up in 1971 as a repository of contributions to SEAMEO to support the Special Funds requirements of Regional Centres and Projects with a view to attain financial independence. It has two components, namely, Funds for Immediate Use and Endowment Funds.

72 At the 33rd SEAMEO Council Conference in February 1998, the SEAMEO Council approved the revision of SEAMEO EDF so that it would support the requirements of both Special Funds and Other Funds. As agreed by the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2009, the Untied Funds would be held at the SEAMEO Secretariat and would be used to support the costs of promoting regional projects involving collaboration among SEAMEO Centres on initiatives and issues of regional importance.
The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note and endorsed the submission of the Status and Utilization of SEAMEO Educational Development Fund to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the Status of SEAMEO Educational Development Fund.

6) Investment of Funds at the SEAMEO Secretariat in FY2013/2014 (MC-48/WP/7)

The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the status of the Investment Funds at the SEAMEO Secretariat for FY2013/2014. The paper reported the investment of funds which are not in immediate use and are invested in time deposits at local commercial banks in FY2013/2014.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note and endorsed the submission of the Investment of Funds at the SEAMEO Secretariat for FY2013/2014 to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the status of the Investment of Funds at the SEAMEO Secretariat for FY2013/2014.


The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat for the acceptance of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. The Financial Audit Report for FY2013/2014 showed the audited financial accounts of the fiscal year beginning 1 July 2013 and ending 30 June 2014, which were audited by an external auditor, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Jaiyos Audit Co., Ltd. The scope of audit work has been expanded to accommodate the new framework of the revised Financial Operations Manual.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting endorsed the SEAMEO Secretariat’s financial audit report for FY2013/2014 for the acceptance of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

Resolution


The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat for approval of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. The consolidated budgets are indicative of the level of planned activities and the magnitude of funds requirements for each SEAMEO Unit as well as for the Organization as a whole.
The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note and endorsed the submission of the consolidated budget reports to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for approval.

**Resolution**

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) approved the SEAMEO Consolidated Three-Year Budget for FY2015/2016 to FY2017/2018.

b) approved the SEAMEO Consolidated Personnel Strength Budget for FY ending 30 June 2014.

9) Contribution of SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Donors and Partner Institutions to SEAMEO during FY2013/2014 (MC-48/WP/10)

The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the support provided by the SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Donors, Partner Institutions, and the SEAMEO Member Countries on specific projects and programmes during FY2013/2014.

The contribution profile was recorded during FY2013/2014 ending 30 June 2014 and the data presented in the working paper were the consolidated inputs from all SEAMEO Centres/Network and the Secretariat.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note and expressed appreciation for the support provided to SEAMEO by SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Donors, and Partner Institutions during the FY2013/2014; and endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

**Resolution**

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note and expressed appreciation for the support provided to SEAMEO by SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Donors, Partner Institutions during the FY2013/2014.


The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the updates of the implementation of selected SEAMEO initiatives under the SEAMEO Strategic Plan (2011-2020).

The working paper presented updates on selected SEAMEO Initiatives, namely (a) SEAMEO College; (b) SEAMEO Congress; (c) Establishment of SEAMEO Knowledge Management; (d) Setting up an International Standard Certification for SEAMEO Regional Centres; (e) SEAMEO Basic Education Standards; and (f) Implementation of the SEAMEO Cultural Week.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of dates and venue for the conduct of SEAMEO College Module 2: High Officials Country Case Study (HOCCS) on 24-26 February 2015 in Bangkok, Thailand;
b) took note of the regional recommendations from the SEAMEO Congress and support adoption or prioritization of these recommendations at the country and regional level;

c) expressed support to SEAMEO SEARCA’s recommendations on building up the SEAMEO Knowledge Management initiative;

d) endorsed SEAMEO VOCTECH’s plans for activities related to setting up an international standard certification for the SEAMEO Centres;

e) endorsed SEAMEO RECSAM’s development of the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES);

f) took note of SEAMEO SPAFA’s proposal on the implementation of SEAMEO Cultural Week as part of SEAMEO’s 50th Year Anniversary activities; and

g) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

91 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the updates of the implementation of selected SEAMEO initiatives under the SEAMEO Strategic Plan (2011-2020).

11) Report on the SEAMEO Database on Education (MC-48/WP/12)

92 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the progress of the development and data entry of the SEAMEO Database on Education. The working paper reported the results from the Workshop on the SEAMEO Database on Education held in 2013 and presented the updates related to the national statistics of the SEAMEO Member Countries included in the SEAMEO Database on Education.

93 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the progress on the development and data entry of the SEAMEO Database on Education;

b) expressed continuous support to the development and data entry of the SEAMEO Database on Education; and

c) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

94 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the progress of the development and data entry of the SEAMEO Database on Education.

The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the activities that were implemented by the SEAMEO Units in FY2013/2014 under the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme.

The working paper reported the activities related to the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme undertaken by 12 SEAMEO Units in FY2013/2014, namely SEAMEO BIOTROP, SEAMEO CELLL, SEAMEO CHAT, SEAMEO QITEP in Language, SEAMEO QITEP in Science, SEAMEO RECSAM, SEAMEO RETRAC, SEAMEO SEARCA, SEAMEO SEN, SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand, SEAMEO TROPMED Philippines, and the SEAMEO Secretariat.

The activities undertaken by the SEAMEO Units could be summarised in four areas, namely, (a) Educational Development Activities, (b) Social and Human Resources Development Activities, (c) Health Development and Promotion Activities, and (d) Environmental Development Activities.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting took note of the activities under the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme in FY2013/2014 undertaken by the SEAMEO Units; and endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

**Resolution**

The 47th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the activities under the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme in FY2013/2014 undertaken by the SEAMEO Units.

13) **Report on the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members (MC-48/WP/14)**

The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the result of the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members, hosted by the Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam on 11-12 June 2014 in Gadong, Brunei Darussalam.

The working paper also informed about the 5th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members to be hosted by Cambodia in 2015.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the report on the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members hosted by the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam on 11-12 June 2014 in Gadong, Brunei Darussalam;

b) took note of the 5th Annual Forum to be hosted by Cambodia in 2015; and

c) endorsed the submission of this paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.
Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note of the report on the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members hosted by the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam on 11-12 June 2014 in Gadong, Brunei Darussalam; and

b) took note of the 5th Annual Forum to be hosted by Cambodia on 11-12 June 2015.

14) Update on the SEAMEO-Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Program (MC-48/WP/15)

The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on update on the SEAMEO-Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Program.

The project is being implemented in 45 intervention schools in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines based on the Essential Health Care Programme (EHCP) of the Philippines. Project duration is from October 2011 to November 2015. The EHCP is a preventive school health program that adopts the FFS principles: simple, scalable, and sustainable to address issue of absenteeism and poor academic performance among school children due to infectious diseases, intestinal worms, malnutrition, and tooth-decay.

In May 2013, Germany provided 5.7 million Euros for the implementation of the project over a period of seven years. In November 2014, additional fund worth 6.7 million Euros was provided for an extended implementation until 2021.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the progress of the implementation of the SEAMEO-Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Programme in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines, thereby recognizing the active support and involvement of the Ministries of Education in four model countries in terms of modelling the FFS Programme;

b) took note of the extension of the project, and the additional funding support from Germany for the project;

c) expressed appreciation to Germany for its support to the SEAMEO-Germany Regional FFS Programme; and

d) endorsed the submission of this paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note of the progress of the implementation of the SEAMEO-Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Programme in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Philippines, thereby recognizing the active support and involvement of
the Ministries of Education in four model countries in terms of modelling the FFS Programme;

b) took note of the extension of the project, and the additional funding support from Germany for the project; and

c) expressed appreciation to Germany for its support to the SEAMEO-Germany Regional FFS Programme.

15) Update on the SEAMEO Secretariat’s Collaboration with Partners (MC-48/WP/16)

109 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on activities undertaken by the SEAMEO Secretariat in developing and strengthening partnerships with government agencies, international organizations, and private institutions in support of the promotion of SEAMEO and its activities and consistent with the functions of the SEAMEO Secretariat.

110 The report included various activities undertaken by the SEAMEO Secretariat in cooperation with relevant SEAMEO Centres in developing and strengthening partnerships with ASEAN-China Centre (ACC); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA); ASEAN Secretariat; Korean Education Development Institute (KEDI); Ministry of Education, China; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan; Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); UNESCO Bangkok; and UNICEF EAPRO.

111 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the updates and activities undertaken by the SEAMEO Secretariat in developing and strengthening partnerships with ASEAN-China Centre (ACC); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA); ASEAN Secretariat; Korean Education Development Institute (KEDI); Ministry of Education, China; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan; Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); UNESCO Bangkok; and UNICEF EAPRO; and

b) took note of the approval of the 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting In-Camera Session for SEAMEO to sign a Letter of Intent with KEDI;

c) took note of the expression of intent by the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), Ministry of Education, China to apply as Affiliate Member to SEAMEO;

d) expressed appreciation to the SEAMEO partners, namely, ACC; ADB; ADEA; ASEAN Secretariat; KEDI; MEXT, Japan; OEI; UNESCO Bangkok; and UNICEF EAPRO; and

e) endorsed the submission of this paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.
Resolution

112 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note of the updates and activities undertaken by the SEAMEO Secretariat in developing and strengthening partnerships with ASEAN-China Centre (ACC); Asian Development Bank (ADB); Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA); ASEAN Secretariat; Korean Education Development Institute (KEDI); Ministry of Education, China; Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan; Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI); UNESCO Bangkok; and UNICEF EAPRO; and

b) expressed appreciation to the SEAMEO partners, namely, ACC; ADB; ADEA; ASEAN Secretariat; KEDI; MEXT, Japan; OEI; UNESCO Bangkok; and UNICEF EAPRO, for their cooperation and support to SEAMEO.

16) Update on SEAMEO-UNESCO Project on Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia (MC-48/WP/17)

113 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the implementation of the SEAMEO-UNESCO Pre-primary Teacher Development Project.

114 The project aims to strengthen Southeast Asian countries' capacity to comprehensively analyze pre-primary teacher education and professional development policies and systems, and to raise the standard of pre-primary teacher qualifications and professional development systems.

115 Major activities include conduct of survey for baseline information, development of guidelines, conduct of regional and national advocacy, and development of country plans. Project implementation started in April 2014 until July 2015. Project funding was sourced out by UNESCO Bangkok through the Japan Funds In-Trust.

116 This project complements and supports various initiatives of SEAMEO and UNESCO Bangkok on Early Childhood Care and Education, including the SEAMEO Reaching the Unreached Project 5 (Preschool Programme for All) led by Brunei Darussalam.

117 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the progress of and the activities conducted under the SEAMEO-UNESCO Project on Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia;

b) endorsed the drafting of the Southeast Asian Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Development using the suggested outline which is based on good practices and lessons learned from the SEAMEO Member Countries;

c) expressed continuous support and cooperation in the implementation of the project; and

d) endorsed the submission of this paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.
118 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the progress and the activities conducted under the SEAMEO-UNESCO Project on Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia.

17) SEARCA-RELC Pilot Programme on English Language Training for Southeast Asian Graduate Students in 2015 (MC-48/WP/18)

119 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference of a pilot implementation and scholarship on an English Language Training Course to be offered jointly by the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEAMEO SEARCA) and the Regional Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC).

120 The working paper highlighted the rationale of this pilot programme as a contribution of SEAMEO SEARCA and SEAMEO RELC to the region in fulfilling the core mission of both SEAMEO Centres. It also paves the way for more opportunities that would enable two or more Centres to come together to augment the training which would otherwise have been the sole effort of one Centre.

121 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the pilot project on English Language Training Course as a key contribution of SEAMEO SEARCA and SEAMEO RELC to the region, in the context of an inter-centre collaboration, which taps on shared resources and expertise for capacity building; and

b) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

122 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the pilot project on English Language Training Course of SEAMEO SEARCA and SEAMEO RELC.

123 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the updates and activities related to the 50th Year Anniversary of SEAMEO which would be implemented by the SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres in 2014-2015.

124 The working paper presented the updated on the: (a) Members of the committees, (b) 50th Anniversary activities at regional level such as the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Writing Contest, SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Recognition Award, guidelines for the celebration, special promotional materials, and joint public relations, and (c) Consolidated plan of SEAMEO Centres for the 50th Anniversary celebration.

125 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the updated information on the celebratory activities at the regional level, the consolidated celebratory plans of SEAMEO Centres, and the composition of the working committees for the celebration of the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO;
b) expressed support to the overall plans and activities for the 50th SEAMEO Anniversary; and

c) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

126 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the updated information and activities related to the 50th Year Anniversary of SEAMEO.


127 The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to seek approval from the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the proposed continued collaboration between SEAMEO and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan on the 2nd phase of the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award which would be implemented from 2015 to 2017.

128 The award aimed to raise the awareness of ESD practices in schools, share knowledge and establish networks in Southeast Asia.

129 This project is the continuation of the 1st phase which started in 2012 until 2014 and which generated interest and participation with a total of 257 competition entries for the last three years of project implementation. The 2nd phase of the Award would be funded by MEXT Japan with contribution from the SEAMEO Secretariat from 2015-2017.

130 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the 2nd phase of the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award which would be implemented from 2015 to 2017; and

b) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for approval.

Resolution

131 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference approved the 2nd phase of the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award which would be implemented from 2015 to 2017.

20) Results of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Link: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions (MC-48/WP/21)

132 The working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the conduct of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions, on 14-20 September 2014 with the support of British Council, and the proposed collaborative initiatives with the selected UK education institutions.

133 The SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions aimed to link SEAMEO Centres and the SEAMEO Secretariat with relevant education research institutions in the UK with the view of stimulating education and research partnerships between Southeast Asia and the UK.
As a result of the activity, four proposed initiatives would be pursued for collaboration with selected UK institutions, namely, (a) Student and researcher mobility; (b) SEAMEO-UK Collaborative Research Initiative; (c) Capacity Building Programme on Quality Assurance for SEAMEO; and (d) Technical and Training Employability.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the conduct of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions, on 14-20 September 2014;

b) took note of the proposed collaborative initiatives with selected UK education institutions;

c) expressed appreciation to British Council for the generous support and cooperation to SEAMEO on the conduct of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links; and

d) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note on the conduct of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions, on 14-20 September 2014 with the support of British Council, and the proposed collaborative initiatives with the selected UK education institutions; and

b) expressed appreciation to British Council for the generous support and cooperation to SEAMEO on the conduct of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links.

The Top Global University Project and Enhancing Collaboration of the University of Tsukuba with SEAMEO Member Countries (MC-48/WP/22)

The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the selection of the University of Tsukuba as a Top Global University by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, and the prospects for advancing cooperation between the University of Tsukuba and SEAMEO Member Countries.

The principal feature of the Top Global University Project revolves around the theme “Transforming Higher Education for a Brighter Future Through Transborder University Initiatives.” Strategies include “Campus-in-Campus (CiC)” initiative where virtual campuses would be established in partner institutions to facilitate mutual sharing of educational and research resources. Part of the CiC strategy is the Course Juke-box System which would enable the sharing of classes and teaching staff.

In Southeast Asia, the University of Tsukuba would build on the ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme initiated by SEAMEO RIHED and Japan participated under the Trans-ASEAN Global Agenda Education Programme in 2013. The University of Tsukuba expressed interest to explore future possibilities of collaborating with the SEAMEO network in relation to the project.
140 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note on the Top Global University Project, and that the University of Tsukuba has been selected as one of the universities for the project;

b) took note that the University of Tsukuba hopes to explore future possibilities of collaborating with the SEAMEO Member Countries by building on the experience of the AIMS Programme; and

c) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

141 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the selection of the University of Tsukuba as a Top Global University by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan, and the prospects for advancing cooperation between the University of Tsukuba and SEAMEO Member Countries.

22) Report on the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES) (MC-48/WP/23)

142 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the progress of the development of the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES).

143 The report included a short background on the SEA-BES as well as the result of the Regional Consultative Meeting on SEA-BES that was held on 4-5 November 2014 at SEAMEO RECSAM in Penang, Malaysia.

144 The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the progress on the development of the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES);

b) expressed continuous support to the development of the SEA-BES; and

c) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

145 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the progress of the development of the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES).

23) Report on the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) (MC-48/WP/24)

146 The working paper was presented ad referendum by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the updates of activities under the SEAMEO-UNICEF EAPRO collaboration in the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) Phase Two.
The paper provided brief background information on the project and reported the details of activities that were undertaken under the SEA-PLM Phase Two, as well as the next steps to take under the project.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the updates and activities conducted under the SEAMEO-UNICEF EAPRO collaboration in the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) Phase Two;

b) expressed continuous support to the implementation of Phase Two of the SEA-PLM; and

c) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the updates of activities under the SEAMEO-UNICEF EAPRO collaboration in the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) Phase Two.


This working paper was presented *ad referendum* by the SEAMEO Secretariat to seek approval from the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the result of the SEAMEO Regional Study and Development of Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia.

The study, which utilized foresight and futures perspective, is a response to the directive of the SEAMEO Council and was intended to examine discourses on MDGs, EFA Goals, and other key issues related to the Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda. It determined the application, implication and adaptability of these global discourses on education in Southeast Asia, paying particular attention to conditions that are supportive of the Southeast Asian Community. Finally, it attempted to identify gaps and recommend options for Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia.

Seven identified priority areas include early childhood care and education, inclusion and access to basic learning opportunities of all learners, preparing schools towards resiliency in emergencies, technical and vocational education and training, teacher education reform, higher education and research, and 21st Century curriculum.

The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the result of the SEAMEO Regional Study and Development of Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia;

b) endorsed the findings and recommendations of the Study on Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in six categories (mission and policy, management, pedagogy and curriculum, teachers and students, resources, and linkages and partnerships) as reference in future planning in SEAMEO;
c) expressed appreciation to partners that provided support to the study, namely, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Centre for Technology Foresight (APEC-CTF) under the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office of Thailand, Burapha University of Thailand, Fulbright Thailand, Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) of Thailand, and National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) under MEXT of Japan; and

d) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for approval.

Resolution

154 The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) approved the result and recommendations of the SEAMEO Regional Study and Development of Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia; and

b) expressed appreciation to partners that provided support to the study, namely, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Centre for Technology Foresight (APEC-CTF) under the National Science Technology and Innovation Policy Office of Thailand, Burapha University of Thailand, Fulbright Thailand, Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) of Thailand, and National Institute of Science and Technology Policy (NISTEP) under MEXT of Japan.

C. Reports and Proposals for Presentation

1) Update on the Implementation of SEAMEO College: Strengthening SEAMEO’s Capacity to Promote Education and Social Development in Southeast Asia (MC-48/WP/26)

155 The working paper was presented by the SEAMEO Secretariat to seek approval from the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the follow-up actions of the implementation of SEAMEO College, particularly the completion of three modules for Year 1 of the project namely, Module 1: Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers, Module 3: Education Leaders’ Innovation Forum, and Module 4: Learning and Innovation Forum of Youth Leaders.

156 SEAMEO College is one of the SEAMEO initiatives under the 2011-2020 SEAMEO Strategic Plan. It consists of a series of forums as well as research and development activities. Modules and programmes are developed based on identified and prioritized needs of the target groups including education Ministers, high-level education officials, education administrators and practitioners, and youth leaders. The project period is from July 2013 to June 2015, and with funding support from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

157 Three modules have been conducted including Module 3: Education Leaders’ Innovation Forum in July 2014 by SEAMEO RETRAC, Module 1: Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers in September 2014 by SEAMEO INNOTECH and SEAMEO Secretariat, Module 4: Learning and Innovation Forum of Youth Leaders in October 2014 by SEAMEO SPAFA.
The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the progress of implementation of SEAMEO College, particularly the completion of three modules for Year 1 of the project namely, Module 1: Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers, Module 3: Education Leaders’ Innovation Forum, and Module 4: Learning and Innovation Forum of Youth Leaders;

b) took note of the schedule and the topic for Module 2: High Officials Country Case Studies, and other major activities in 2015;

c) endorsed the suggested follow-up actions particularly the dissemination of the SEAMEO Education Ministers Joint Statement on the SEAMEO Post-2015 Education Agenda;

d) expressed continuous support to the implementation of SEAMEO College;

e) expressed appreciation to Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that provided support to SEAMEO College project; and

f) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for approval.

Discussion

The Philippines requested for clarification on the implementation of SEAMEO College, Module 2: High Officials Country Case Study.

The SEAMEO Secretariat explained that Module 2: High Officials Country Case Study was conducted in March 2015 by SEAMEO TROPMED Network with support from SEAMEO RIHED.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) approved on the follow-up actions of the implementation of SEAMEO College; and

b) expressed appreciation to Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction through the Asian Development Bank (ADB) that provided support to SEAMEO College project.

2) Innovative Education Policies and Strategies for the Region: Recommendations from the SEAMEO Congress and the Special Ministerial Session (MC-48/WP/27)

The working paper was presented by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the result of the Special Ministerial Session of the SEAMEO Congress on 21-22 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.

The presentation included recommendations from the SEAMEO Congress and the Special Ministerial Session on the innovative education policies and strategies for the Region.
The 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting:

a) took note of the conduct of the SEAMEO Congress on 21-22 October 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand;

b) expressed support to the adoption of the recommendations, dependent upon the SEAMEO Member Countries’ context and respective current education reform processes;

c) expressed appreciation to the Aksorn Education Company Limited, ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), British Council, Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production Ltd., Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), PTT Public Company Limited, Quality Learning Foundation, SEAMEO TROPMED Network, The Siam Commercial Foundation, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, and UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), for the generous support and cooperation to SEAMEO for the conduct of the SEAMEO Congress; and

d) endorsed the submission of this working paper to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference for information.

Resolution

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference:

a) took note on the recommendations from the SEAMEO Congress and the Special Ministerial Session on the innovative education policies and strategies; and

b) expressed appreciation to the Aksorn Education Company Limited, ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), British Council, Chevron Thailand Exploration and Production Ltd., Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), PTT Public Company Limited, Quality Learning Foundation, SEAMEO TROPMED Network, The Siam Commercial Foundation, Thai Health Promotion Foundation, and UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), for the generous support and cooperation to SEAMEO for the conduct of the SEAMEO Congress.

3) Updates on Developments in Pursuance of Recommendations from Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) and SEAMEO Congress: SEAMEO Capacity Building in Southeast Asia

The working paper was presented by the SEAMEO Secretariat to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the follow-up from the result of the SEAMEO Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) held in Vientiane in September 2014 and SEAMEO Congress held in Bangkok in October 2014 respectively.

SEAMEO has then initiated “SEAMEO Online Capacity Building for Southeast Asian Member Countries” which comprises of three programmes: (a) Southeast Asia Digital Class, (b) Teacher Training Network Through SEAMEO Centres, and (c) Harmonization of Technical and Vocational Education and Training. This initiative will further strengthen the networking and collaboration among the Member Countries and Centres with the involvement of teachers and students in the region.
The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the SEAMEO Online Capacity Building for Southeast Asian Member Countries.

4) Updated Information on the Regional Activities for Celebrating the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary

The SEAMEO Secretariat presented the working paper to inform the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference on the updated information on the regional activities for celebrating the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary. The activities are: (a) SEAMEO 50x3 School Network; (b) SEAMEO Cultural Week; (c) SEAMEO Song Angklung Contest; and (d) 1st International Conference on Special Education.

The SEAMEO 50x3 School Network activity is to establish a “Network of Sharing and Educational Development” among 50 Primary Schools, 50 Secondary Schools and 50 Vocational and Technical Schools in Southeast Asian Member Countries. Additionally, the SEAMEO Cultural Week is to enhance understanding of the Southeast Asia’s cultural diversity and traditions among the people in this region and beyond. The SEAMEO Song Angklung Contest will promote digital learning of students while sustaining the local identity through the utilization of technology in the form of the “Angklung Musical Instrument”. Lastly, the First International Conference on Special Education will be held on 28-31 July 2015 in Bangkok with the theme “Innovation: Enhanced Learning Initiatives and Practices”.

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note of the regional activities for celebrating the 50th Anniversary of SEAMEO.

5) SEAMEO Integrated Annual Report FY2013/2014 (multimedia presentation)

The SEAMEO Secretariat presented the SEAMEO Integrated Annual Report on the accomplishments of SEAMEO for FY2013/2014 in multimedia. The presentation featured important activities of the SEAMEO Centres and the Secretariat for that fiscal year.


6) Tentative Schedule of the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference

Indonesia indicated that the proposed date for the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference will be in May 2017 and either in Bali or Jogjakarta or Lombok. However, since the next SEAMEO Council Conference would take place in 2017 which is two years away, the dates would need to be confirmed. The venue would also need to be informed in due course. A video presentation about Indonesia was then presented to the members of the meeting.

D. Other Matters

1) Updates on SEAMEO-UNESCO-UNICEF Collaboration

UNESCO presented the updates of SEAMEO-UNESCO-UNICEF collaboration on projects titled, “Promoting Intercultural Dialogue and a Culture of Peace in Southeast Asia through Shared Histories” and “Education and Resilience” respectively.
The objectives of the Southeast Asia Shared Histories project are: (1) to develop and promote the adoption of innovative teaching and learning materials on the shared histories of Southeast Asia from a sub-regional perspective; (2) to emphasize similarities, complementarities and mutual respect, and (3) to confront perceptions currently reinforcing differences and antagonism, therefore contributing to a better mutual understanding within the sub-region.

A regional consultation meeting was conducted in November 2014 in SEAMEO INNOTECH to develop regional guidance for programmes and policies that promote social cohesion and comprehensive school safety and was attended by 89 participants including participants from Governments and non-governmental organizations.

**Resolution**

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference took note on the updates of the SEAMEO-UNESCO-UNICEF collaboration activities on Southeast Asia Shared Histories and Resilience in Education.

**E. Closing Remarks by the Chairperson**

The Chair warmly thanked everyone for their participation and adjourned the meeting.

**V. Plenary Session 3 – Policy Forum**

The Policy Forum was led by H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin, Vice Minister of Education Thailand and moderated by Miss Porntip Kanjananiyot, Former Executive Director of Thailand-US Education Foundation. The theme for the policy forum was “Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens”.

H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin presented on digital learning and how it is different and emphasized on the differences between the learning from textbooks and the learning from devices. Indeed, electronic devices represent efficient tools for learning and support textbooks but it cannot replace learning from the teachers. Firstly, he emphasized the nature of the engagement with digital devices compared with textbooks, such as the three dimensions relationship, level of comprehension and understanding of the content, engagement of senses, and distraction. On digital devices, he mentioned that the students’ perception of the digital device as being a storage tool, not as a learning tool. Secondly, he pointed out the important investments of the Thai government in digital learning and invited the audience to always consider the limitations related to these devices and encouraged all policy-makers to formulate policies that are evidence-driven.

Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat addressed the comment from H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin by presenting examples from SEAMOLEC in Indonesia where many digital learning initiatives are currently conducted. These initiatives also utilize digital media for examination purposes. It has shown very successful results. However, he pointed out the role of teachers in guiding and giving direct feedback to students. Moreover, digital learning enables inter-countries collaboration as teachers from different countries have the opportunity to exchange their experiences and teaching strategies.

H E Mr Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education Brunei Darussalam then shared Brunei Darussalam’s initiative focusing on the use of digital learning and Global Citizenship. He emphasized the inclusion of new technologies into learning as an integral
part of the 21st Century skills. In addition, technologies will support teachers in achieving better learning results but it needs to be fully designed by the teachers. He presented the 3S. More information can be accessed on www.wsid.info.

184 In response to this last comment, H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin mentioned about a distance learning project through satellites which was initiated by His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej. The distance learning project called “Klai Kangwon” enables children and teachers in remote areas to have access to collective teaching in subjects that are not available.

185 H E Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture Indonesia asserted on the big challenge in Indonesia, which is the access to education in remote areas, given the geographical constraints (islands). He considered digital learning as a real necessity in those areas. He presented the new initiative that is currently being undertaken in Indonesia. He pointed out that new digital examinations are taking place, which leads to more creative and innovative ways of testing students. He also reiterated on the importance of using digital techniques that have proven its efficiency. Therefore, he suggested SEAMEO and stakeholders to produce a document summarizing the lessons learned and challenges, as well as the good practices in the region and beyond that can serve as a reference for all SEAMEO Member Countries. Reference was made on the role of teachers in educating children with new technologies. Indeed, teachers need to be familiar and educated first with these new approaches, standards and instruments with digital learning before teaching their students.

186 H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin supported the points raised by Indonesia, emphasizing the relevance of looking at digital learning through the lens of equity. He mentioned accessibility to knowledge and education is central to any education reforms.

187 H E Dato’ Seri Idris Jusoh, Minister of Education II Malaysia shared his view that digital learning as being an opportunity for learning for all. It also allows self-paced learning. However, he also pointed out that digital learning cannot replace some important elements of classroom learning such as peer interaction. Therefore, he describes learning in Malaysia as blended learning. He then reminded that the limitations of digital learning could not be ignored. He specifically referred to the lack of proper infrastructures, which would not allow the proper use of technologies. In that sense, the use of digital learning can also trigger inequality and therefore needs to be carefully assessed.

188 H E Atty Alberto Jesus Tiongson Muyot, Undersecretary (Deputy Minister) of Department of Education Philippines emphasized the role of teachers in digital learning. Indeed, they need to access materials easily and be properly trained. Capacity of the teachers is central and needs to be further strengthened. He referred to a programme in the Philippines that supports teachers such as the “Learning Resources and Management Development System” (LRMDS) which is an online portal for teaching and learning materials. However, this programme has a limitation related to intellectual property. He pointed out a concern related to the faster access of students to information and knowledge compared to their teachers that might lead to misinformation. He emphasized how technologies have been used negatively in terms of child protection, e.g. cyber bullying. Therefore, this aspect needs to be taken into consideration when developing and promoting technologies.

189 In conclusion, H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin stated that all the audience agreed on the benefits of digital learning and that it is important to lay down the infrastructures and foundations for digital learning. However, several issues and limitations arise and those need to be further investigated, such as motivation to learn and the assessment of learning through online courses.
Miss Porntip Kanjananiyot, the moderator ended the policy forum by thanking the members of the meeting for their active participation and valuable contributions.

VI. Ministerial Round Table Meeting

The Ministerial Round Table Meeting was a closed discussion among Heads of delegations of SEAMEO Member Countries. The agenda was determined by Thailand as host Country in consultation with the Member Countries on issues and challenges related to SEAMEO. The Ministerial Round Table Meeting with the theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” was facilitated by SEAMEO Secretariat focused on the seven priority areas of the SEAMEO Post-2015 Education Agenda. The seven priority areas are: (1) Early childhood care and education, (2) inclusive education and access to education, (3) resilience in education, (4) technical and vocational education and training (TVET), (5) teacher education, (6) higher education and research, and (7) 21st Century curriculum.

The members of the SEAMEO Council during the Ministerial Round Table Meeting agreed on:

a) Utilization of the 21 SEAMEO Centres as the mechanism to implement the seven priority areas at the national, regional level and beyond and synergizing with ASEAN;

b) Linking the seven priority areas with the curriculum and moving towards global citizenship;

c) Promoting teachers and school leaders’ competencies standards in the SEAMEO Member Countries;

d) Mobilizing and sharing of knowledge, skills and best practices among SEAMEO Member Countries, namely in the areas of TVET, English proficiency skills, digital competencies, 21st Century and employability skills; and

e) Involvement of parents in the education system through the “partnering with parents” initiative to foster common understanding on quality education to the parents in the education of their children.

VII. Review and Adoption of Conference Reports

The SEAMEO Council reviewed the Draft Report of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference and adopted it with minor amendments.

VIII. Closing Formalities

The Chair expressed deepest appreciation to all SEAMEO Council Members and heads of delegation for their participation to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. The Chair also thanked the SEAMEO Secretariat for the assistance extended to the Ministry of Education Thailand in the organization of the Conference.
IX. Associated Activities

A. Welcome Dinner hosted by the Governor of Chonburi Province

The Welcome Dinner hosted by the Governor of Chonburi Province was held on 6 May 2015 after the completion of the In-Camera Session. The dinner was decorated with delightful and colorful cultural performances.

B. Welcome Reception hosted by the Ministry of Education Thailand and Presentation of SEAMEO Awards

The Welcome Reception hosted by the Ministry of Education Thailand was held on the second day of the Conference i.e. 7 May 2015 after the completion of the Plenary Session. The reception was adorned by spectacular and vibrant performances. Also, several award ceremonies were also held:

a) SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award

The Head of Australia Delegation, Ms Karen Ann Sandercock of Australian Government Department of Education and Training delivered a speech on the SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award and announced the winner.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand and the President of the SEAMEO Council presented the plaque of recognition to the winner of the award: Ms Finita Dewi of Indonesia Education University.

b) SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award

Mr Yuzuru Imasato, the Director of International Affairs Division Minister’s Secretariat, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) Japan, delivered a speech on the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award and announced the winners.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand and the President of the SEAMEO Council presented the plaques of recognition to the four winners of the award:

Malaysia
1. St George’s Girls’ School
   Represented by Madame Shariffah Afifah binti Syed Abbas
   Principal

Singapore
2. Fairfield Methodist School (Primary)
   Represented by Mrs Chaillan Mui Tuan
   Principal

Thailand
3. Udonpittayakoon School
   Represented by Dr Pramuan Sophaporn
   Former School Director

4. Udonpittayakoon School
   Represented by Mr Sujint Kaokaew
   School Director
c) **SEAMEO-ACC Sports Education Innovation Award**

Mr Tri Purnajaya, the Director of Education, Culture and Tourism Division, ASEAN-China Centre (ACC) delivered a speech on the SEAMEO-ACC Sports Education Innovation Award and announced the winners.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand and the President of the SEAMEO Council presented the plaques of recognition to the winners of the award:

- **Indonesia**
  1. St Ursula Onekore 2, Catholic Primary School
     Represented by Mr Sr Herlin Manuk OSU, Principal
  2. SMP N 4 Juwana School
     Represented by Mr Anwar Mashudi Programme Coordinator and Teacher

- **Malaysia**
  3. SJK(T) Jalan Khalidi School
     Represented by Ms Vanesri a/p Kasi Principal

- **Philippines**
  4. South Hill School, Inc.
     Represented by Mr Amando Perfecto DLC Molin Programme Coordinator and Teacher
  5. Oriental Mindoro National High School
     Represented by Mr Leo C De Guzman Programme Coordinator

- **Singapore**
  6. CHIJ Our Lady Queen of Peace School
     Represented by Mrs Anna Belle Tay Cai Fang Head of Department (Curriculum Innovation)
  7. Mayflower Secondary School
     Represented by Mr Loo Ming Yaw Principal

- **Thailand**
  8. Udonpittayanukoon School
     Represented by Dr Amolwan Sripasert Director

d) **SEAMEO Service Award**

The Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto delivered a speech on the SEAMEO Service Award and the award is for the SEAMEO Regional Centres/Network and the SEAMEO Secretariat. The awardees received the plaques of recognition prior to the ceremony.

H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education Thailand and the President of the SEAMEO Council was in the photo session with the 22 SEAMEO Service awardees:
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<tr>
<th>SEAMEO BIOTROP</th>
<th>1. Ms Rima Febriana</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Manager</td>
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<td></td>
<td>General Administration and Public Relations Department</td>
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<td>SEAMEO CHAT</td>
<td>2. Mrs Myint Myint Ohn</td>
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<td>Centre Director</td>
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<td>SEAMEO INNOTECH</td>
<td>3. Mr Raphael Orenday Cada</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Associate</td>
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<td>Quality and Systems Management Office</td>
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<td>SEAMEO QITEP in Language</td>
<td>4. Ms Estiningsih Suprandini</td>
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<td>Research and Development Programme Staff</td>
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<td>SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics</td>
<td>5. Mr Tri Budi Wijayanto</td>
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<td>Personnel, Finance and Infrastructure Staff</td>
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<td>SEAMEO QITEP in Science</td>
<td>6. Mr Reza Setiawan</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Head</td>
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<td>Programme and Training Division</td>
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<td>SEAMEO RECFON</td>
<td>7. Dr Drupadi HS Dillon</td>
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<td>Centre Director</td>
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<td>SEAMEO RECSAM</td>
<td>8. Mr Ahmad Basrah bin Awang</td>
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<td>General Assistant – Driver</td>
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<td>SEAMEO RELC</td>
<td>9. Ms Sathya Thevi d/o R Subramaniam</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Senior Centre Secretariat Executive</td>
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<td>SEAMEO RETRAC</td>
<td>10. Mr Bui Bao Lam</td>
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<td>Team Leader</td>
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<td>Administration Department</td>
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<td>SEAMEO RIHED</td>
<td>11. Mr Li Zhe</td>
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<td>Programme Officer</td>
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<td>SEAMEO SEAMOLEC</td>
<td>12. Mr Irfan Gustiawan</td>
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<td>Admin/Finance Officer</td>
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<td>SEAMEO SEARCA</td>
<td>13. Ms Adoracion Ta-ao Robles</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Head of Management Services Unit (MSU) and Concurrent Executive Coordinator</td>
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<td>Office of the Director</td>
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<td>SEAMEO SEN</td>
<td>14. Mrs Era Zaffura binti Md Sin</td>
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<td>Administrative Executive</td>
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<td>SEAMEO SPAFA</td>
<td>15. Ms Nawarat Saengwat</td>
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<td>Librarian</td>
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<tr>
<td>SEAMEO TROPMED/Network</td>
<td>16. Mr Ruam Sangkaram</td>
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<td>Driver</td>
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(33)
17. Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad
   Module Coordinator of the Insects of Medical Importance and Entomological Field and Laboratory Techniques

18. Mr Ernesto E Encarnacion
   Administrative Assistant II

19. Ms Sompan Srinukham
   Head of General Administration in Hospital for Tropical Diseases

20. Mr Md Al-Aiman Syazwi bin Abdullah
    Storekeeper

21. Mrs Srisutha Sriyong
    Administrative Officer

22. Mr Suraphol Krootnuam
    Service Assistant (Reproduction)

C. Bilateral Meetings

During the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, various bilateral meetings were held between the SEAMEO Member Countries on education and other related matters that are of mutual interest to the involved parties.

D. Press Conference

At the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, two press conferences were convened on 7 May 2015 and 8 May 2015 respectively at the Grand Hotel of the Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand.
# List of Participants

| SEAMEO MEMBER COUNTRIES | 1. | H E Pehin Abu Bakar Apong  
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158. Ms Porntip Kanjananiyot  
Former Executive Director  
Thailand-US Education Foundation

**SEAMEO AWARD WINNERS**

**SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Recognition Award**  
159. H E Pehin Orang Kaya Laila Wijaya Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Awang Abdul Aziz bin Begawan Pehin Udana Khatib Dato Seri Paduka Hj Awang Umar  
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162. Prof Dr Erlinda Canlas Pefianco
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163. Prof Dr Adul Wichiencharoen
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164. Mr Tran Ba Viet Dzung
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**SEAMEO-Australia**

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**SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award**

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SEAMEO BIOTROP  

179. Mrs Myint Myint Ohn  
Centre Director  
SEAMEO CHAT  

180. Mr Raphael Orenday Cada  
Senior Associate  
Quality and Systems Management Office  
SEAMEO INNOTECH  

181. Ms Estiningsih Suprandini  
Research and Development Programme Staff  
SEAMEO QITEP in Language  

182. Mr Tri Budi Wijayanto  
Personnel, Finance and Infrastructure Staff  
SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics  

183. Mr Reza Setiawan  
Head  
Programme and Training Division  
SEAMEO QITEP in Science  

184. Dr Drupadi HS Dillon  
Centre Director  
SEAMEO RECFON  

185. Mr Ahmad Basrah bin Awang  
General Assistant – Driver  
SEAMEO RECSAM  

186. Ms Sathya Thevi d/o R Subramaniam  
Senior Centre Secretariat Executive  
SEAMEO RELC  

(55)
187. Mr Bui Bao Lam
   Team Leader
   Administration Department
   SEAMEO RETRAC

188. Mr Li Zhe
   Programme Officer
   SEAMEO RIHED

189. Mr Irfan Gustiawan
   Admin/Finance Officer
   SEAMEO SEAMOLEC

190. Ms Adoracion Ta-ao Robles
   Head of Management Services Unit (MSU) and Concurrent Executive Coordinator
   Office of the Director
   SEAMEO SEARCA

191. Mrs Era Zaffura binti Md Sin
   Administrative Executive
   SEAMEO SEN

192. Ms Nawarat Saengwat
   Librarian
   SEAMEO SPAFA

193. Mr Ruam Sangkaram
   Driver
   SEAMEO TROPMED Network

194. Dr Nazni Wasi Ahmad
   Module Coordinator of the Insects of Medical Importance and Entomological Field and Laboratory Techniques
   SEAMEO TROPMED/Malaysia

195. Mr Ernesto E Encarnacion
   Administrative Assistant II
   SEAMEO TROPMED/Philippines

196. Ms Sompan Srinukham
   Head of General Administration in Hospital for Tropical Diseases
   SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand

197. Mr Md Al-Aiman Syazwi bin Abdullah
   Storekeeper
   SEAMEO VOCTECH

198. Mrs Srisutha Sriyong
   Administrative Officer
   SEAMEO Secretariat

199. Mr Suraphol Krootnuam
   Service Assistant (Reproduction)
   SEAMEO Secretariat

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Opening Speech by
H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan
Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam,
and President of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

Excellency, Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand

Distinguished Members of the SEAMEO Council,

Delegates of Associate Member Countries and Representatives of Affiliate Members,

Director of SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Regional Centre Directors and Network,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great pleasure to welcome you all here at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference organized at Jomtien-Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand. Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to Thailand as host country of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I would like to extend special thanks to His Excellency, Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education and the staff at the Ministry of Education, Thailand for providing all delegates a very warm welcome and excellent hospitality.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 2015, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) has reached its golden age of 50. Being a regional intergovernmental organization established among the Southeast Asian countries, SEAMEO has displayed its significant role in strengthening regional understanding and cooperation in education, science and culture to ensure a better quality of life for the people of Southeast Asia.

Over half a century of existence, the Organization has steadily grown to include 11 Member Countries, 8 Associate Member Countries, 3 Affiliate Members, and 20 regional specialist centres. In addition, SEAMEO has maintained collaborations with more than 20 entities including United Nations agencies, multilateral and intergovernmental organizations, ministries of education of non-SEAMEO countries, research institutions and other regional and national institutions. This expansion is a vivid evidence that the Organization is now better positioned to accomplish its mandate as the leading regional body in promoting cooperation in education, science and culture in Southeast Asia.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

During the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference, the SEAMEO Members adopted the SEAMEO’s Statement on SEAMEO’s Strategic Collaboration towards Regional Development. The 47th SEAMEO Council Conference also marked the launch of the SEAMEO flagship project called “SEAMEO College” which introduces a platform for high-level discussions on forward-looking issues and concerns that will help prepare Southeast Asia for the challenges of the future, and support the ASEAN community.
Last year, the Ministers of Education and Heads of Delegations of the SEAMEO Member States gathered in Vientiane, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, for the Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers, within the framework of the SEAMEO College initiative collectively reflected on and reviewed the progress made in achieving the current global goals in education in order to set the Southeast Asia’s agenda on education development beyond 2015.

The Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers agreed to adopt the Joint Statement on Education Agenda for Southeast Asia (2015-2035) and the seven key priority areas to be pursued by SEAMEO in the next twenty years, namely: (1) Promoting early childhood care and education; (2) Addressing barriers to inclusion and access to basic learning opportunities of all learners particularly for those out-of-school or over-aged children in primary schools; (3) Preparing schools leaders, teachers, students and local communities towards resiliency in the face of emergencies; (4) Promoting technical and vocational education and training among learners and their parents; (5) Reforming teacher education and making teaching profession a first choice; (6) Harmonizing higher education and research; and (7) Adopting a truly 21st century curriculum.

This Joint Statement supports the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2011-2020, and SEAMEO’s Statement on SEAMEO’s Strategic Collaboration towards Regional Development signed in 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam.

The landscape beyond 2015 is more challenging, calling for greater efforts from all SEAMEO stakeholders. Together SEAMEO will remain an effective mechanism in addressing cross-cutting issues in development of human resources in Southeast Asia, promoting the region’s culture and traditions, and developing ASEANness among the citizens of the region.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In 1992, Viet Nam became a full-fledged member of SEAMEO. During those 23 years of working together in the SEAMEO family, Viet Nam has made important contributions to the Organization’s evolution and regional cooperation. As an active and responsible member of SEAMEO, we are pleased to reiterate our commitment to SEAMEO and offer our full cooperation and support on SEAMEO initiatives.

As Vietnam’s term of presidency comes to an end, personally, I would like to say that the leadership of SEAMEO Council in the past two years was among my most significant experiences. My visits to SEAMEO Member Countries and the regional centres revealed a much broader scope and challenge for levelling up Southeast Asia’s human resources.

On this occasion, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the distinguished Member Ministers of the Council, Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat and staff, the SEAMEO Regional Centre Directors and staff for their warm hospitality and cooperation extended to me during my visits to the Member Countries and Regional Centres in my capacity as SEAMEO Council President.

I would also like to thank all those who have been working with SEAMEO to bring quality human resource development to the region.

In conclusion, let’s congratulate SEAMEO for all of its 50 years of services to Southeast Asia, and may the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference a successful and productive conference.

Thank you for your listening.
Welcome and Official Opening Speech by
H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai
Minister of Education, Thailand

H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, President of the SEAMEC,

Members of the SEAMEC,

Representatives from SEAMEO Associate Member Countries and SEAMEO Affiliate Members,

Governor of Chonburi Province and Mayor of Pattaya City,

Distinguished High Officials and Representatives from SEAMEO Member Countries,

Diplomatic Corps,

Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat,

Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres and Network Secretary-General,

Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Thai Government, I would like to welcome members of the SEAMEO Council, Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres, and all representatives and observers from relevant agencies for your valuable participation in this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I am most honoured that Thailand has an opportunity to host the SEAMEO Council Conference once again.

The SEAMEO Council Conference is a very important educational stage in which educational policy makers of SEAMEO member countries are able to discuss and formulate implementation policies and trends in education in the Southeast Asia Region. Thus, it is a great pleasure for me to represent the Thai Government in extending our warmest greetings to all of you to Thailand and to the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I wholeheartedly support this Conference and wish it a great success.

As Minister of Education, I am well aware of the significance of this SEAMEO Council Conference. The year 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the SEAMEO. This Organization has been regarded as an educational mechanism that has run continuously for the longest time in the Southeast Asia Region. During the past 50 years, the SEAMEO has successfully implemented projects and activities beneficial to educational development in this Region. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for its past success. I also firmly believe that, with the collaboration spirit and harmony of the SEAMEO member countries, the SEAMEO will be able to move education in this Region towards great success and achieve its current and future goals.

To mark the 50th Anniversary of the SEAMEO, this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference not only serves as a strategic stage for educational policy development in the Southeast Asia Region but also provides the SEAMEO member countries with an opportunity to review recent achievements of the SEAMEO, along with the impediments to its progress. Besides, we will be able to formulate new educational policies and future direction for policy implementation and to move the collaboration in education, science and culture in the Southeast Asia Region towards the achievement of the goals set forth.
I am convinced that the SEAMEO Council Conference, which includes the Ministerial Round Table Meeting on the Theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” to be held tomorrow, will be a forum to reflect the wisdom and dedication of SEAMEC members. We will have an opportunity to exchange our opinions and formulate strategic policies and future directions for the SEAMEO. In so doing, SEAMEO will remain an important mechanism for its member countries in strengthening the development of education and human resources in responsive with global changes.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The importance of educational development, both at national and regional levels, has long been recognized by the Thai Ministry of Education. Thailand has collaborated with several international organizations, particularly with the SEAMEO, in many educational development projects. In so doing, our goals are to decrease social disparity by providing educational access with equity and equality; to develop the quality and standards of educational system and curriculum; to nurture children and youth with the senses of morality, discipline and social responsibilities; and to promote the teaching profession by upgrading the teacher status.

Thailand has always attached great importance to educational collaboration in the Southeast Asia Region, both at multilateral and bilateral levels. I hereby would like to pledge that the Thai Government will continue to collaborate in educational development with countries and regional and international organizations. We wish to develop our citizens and youths to effectively adopt technologies to benefit their daily lives and the society as a whole, and thus be able to flourish in the digital age. We also give priority to developing our learners, in terms of their morality, capabilities, life skills, and social skills. Currently, we hope to prepare them as good Thai citizens, with readiness for our regional communities and wish that they would become global citizens in the future.

I strongly believe that the SEAMEO member countries will continue to work together to exchange knowledge and experiences in dealing with emerging problems and challenges in education. At the same time, we will formulate education policies and plans by taking into account the need to improve education to develop our human resources in responsive to rapid changes of the globalization era.

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an appropriate time for us to reminisce about those outstanding leaders, who have important roles in supporting the work of the SEAMEO and paved the strong foundation for the SEAMEO during these past 50 years. We all should hold them in high regard and follow their footsteps. In recognition of their benevolence to the SEAMEO, 6 SEAMEO Recognition Awards will be presented to these outstanding leaders. In this occasion, I would like to congratulate and thank all of you who are very worthy of these valuable awards.

At this juncture, I would like to welcome all of you to Thailand once again. I hope your stay here will be pleasurable and impressive. I also would like to invite you to visit the historical places in Thailand, and particularly, to visit Chonburi Province. This province is very important to Thailand’s economic development; it is a famous tourist destination in Thailand and in the Southeast Asia Region. All of the people in Chonburi are very pleased.
to greet their guests with friendship and hospitality. This is the uniqueness of all Thai people.

Now, it is time to declare open this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I wish this Conference a great success in all its deliberations.

Thank you.
Opening Remarks and Report by
H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan
Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam,
and President of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

Excellency, Mr Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Ministry of Education, Thailand,

Excellences, Ministers, Members of the SEAMEO Council,

Directors of SEAMEO Secretariat, and Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres, Networks,

Ladies and gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to extend my sincere thanks to SEAMEO Ministers of Education, SEAMEO Secretariat, Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres and Networks, and my colleagues for your great support and contribution during my term as the President of the SEAMEO Council.

I would like express my deep appreciation to SEAMEO member countries for your very warm welcome and excellent hospitality for myself and my delegation during my visits to your respective countries.

This two-year term of presidency offered me a great opportunity to visit all SEAMEO member countries and almost regional centres/network. During these visits, I acquired a better and deeper understanding on our regional centres and had effective discussions with the centres’ directors and staff. I would like to take this chance to congratulate our regional centres and network for your achievements. I highly appreciate your efforts in realizing your mission and your significant contribution to implement our Golden SEAMEO Vision and prepare for our Post 2015 Education Agenda.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The SEAMEO College Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) on September, 2014 identified seven priorities for SEAMEO (2015-2035). Regional centres shall find ways to further integrate their agenda and activities with these priorities and join hands to realize these priorities in the Post 2015 Education Agenda.

It is noteworthy that SEAMEO regional centres have successfully established a supporting relationship which enables information and experience exchange and collaboration to implement joint activities. I believe this is a significant factor that contributes to the success of each centre. Several centres have developed cooperation programmes with other SEAMEO centres as well as ASEAN partners. I would like to encourage all of you to strengthen such cooperation and association, especially in the context of the official establishment of our ASEAN Community by the end of this year.

In discussions with Ministers of Education from Laos, Cambodia, and Timor Leste, I expressed my expectation and encouragement on behalf of the Council and myself for the early establishment of new regional centres in these countries. These centres would help strengthen the linkage among our all countries members and for the sake of the whole region. We commit, to the best of our ability, to support and facilitate the establishment of these new centres. At the same time, we also have to ensure that these centres have sufficient capacity to focus to the goals and objectives of their establishment.
In the face of the current global economy, our regional centres continue to address various resources and financial constraints in implementing programmes, projects and expanding their activities. Therefore, regional centres should develop their programmes and activities in a way that meet the social needs and enable them to seek funding and to generate income; thus creating a solid foundation for the existence and development of each centre. In addition, these activities shall be in line with the centres’ regulations and operational rules.

I am delighted to announce that during the SEAMEO Presidency term from 2013 – 2015, we have continuously widen our cooperation network with other continent by signing Memorandum of Understanding with the Organization of Ibero-American States for Education, Science and Culture (OEI). With the adoption of the joint action plan afterwards, I believe this cooperation will open a window for SEAMEO centres to develop its new operational orientation. This cooperation also lays a foundation for SEAMEO to expand its network beyond the Southeast Asia region - which will enhance our sustainability and reputation. At the same time, we should join hands and efforts to establish new cooperation relationship with other continents.

In this year of 2015, we are happily celebrating the 50th anniversary of SEAMEO. With the theme of “Education for Sustainable Development”, the suggested guidelines for celebrating this auspicious occasion have been circulated to all of us. I am calling for the support and active participation of all Ministries of Education of SEAMEO member countries, Associate Member Countries, Affiliate Members, Regional Centres and networks to make this SEAMEO’s golden anniversary a meaningful and memorable event.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

SEAMEO Council Conference has truly become a venue for meeting and exchanging experience and ideas among leaders in education of SEAMEO member countries and affiliate members. I would like to take this valuable opportunity to share with my fellow Ministers and participants the strategic objectives of Vietnamese education and our efforts made in regional and international integration.

The Vietnamese Government has issued resolutions on fundamental and comprehensive education and training reform with defined objectives which have been generating deep-root and drastic changes in the quality and effectiveness of education and training, and better responding to the construction and protection of the fatherland as well as the needs for education of the citizens. This reform takes an educational approach towards comprehensive development for Vietnamese people to unleash the potentiality and creativity of each and every individual; to love one’s own family, country and people; to lead a responsible life and an effective job; to build an open education that promotes real, practical learning and working, good learning and teaching and good management; to achieve suitable educational structure and method adhering to establishing a learning society; to maintain requirements for quality improvement; to standardize, modernize, democratize, socialize and internationalize the educational and training system; and to preserve national identity. Vietnamese education will strive for regional excellence by the year of 2030.

Recent years have been a difficult time due to the economic downturn in Vietnam and worldwide. However, what I find most relieving is the great attention and large investment dedicated to achieving the foregoing objectives from the Vietnamese people and Government are still apparent. Although many sectors and localities have to postpone the implementation of crucial constructions, their investment for education is still prioritized and remains intact. This is also the case for parents, as they always prioritize their children’s access to education even when their incomes may decline. These have help to stabilize the training scale nationwide.
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Being the President of SEAMEO Council for the last 2 years has been both a great honour and a significant responsibility for myself and the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam. There are so much left to be done and I would like to put my trust in my successor. With over 20 years of being a member of SEAMEO, I can guarantee that Vietnam has and will always deliver on our commitments, and actively contribute to the development of education, science, and culture of the region.

And now, I would like to get your attention in few minutes to the screen and have a flashback on key moments and highlights in my presidency term from March 2013 to May 2015.

Thank you for your listening.
Remarks by
H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai
Minister of Education, Thailand
and Newly-elected SEAMEO Council President
and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

SEAMEO Council Members,
Representatives from Associate Member Countries and Affiliate Members,
SEAMEO Secretariat Director,
SEAMEO Director Centres,
Distinguished guests,

It is my greatest honour and privilege to be elected as the 48th SEAMEO Council President and the chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. In this occasion, I would like to express my deepest appreciation and gratitude to H.E. Professor Dr. Pham Vu Luan, the Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam, and the 47th SEAMEO Council President for his dedication to drive forward SEAMEO activities in Education, Science, and Culture during his presidency. This, has created and strengthened SEAMEO expansion of more partnership.

I would like to ensure everyone that I will continue this excellent work under framework of SEAMEO, in order to enable our Southeast Asia region to be a dynamic and important mechanism for the regional human resources development. Furthermore, I will collaborate on programmes and activities with SEAMEO Secretariat as well as all SEAMEO Centres to optimize the benefits for the development of the region and to a global community as a whole.

On this occasion, I would like to congratulate H E Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, the Minister of Education and Culture of Republic of Indonesia for being elected as a vice president of the 48th SEAMEO Council conference.

In addition, I would like to welcome our newest affiliate member, the China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) to our SEAMEO family. I have learnt that, CEAIE is a capable organization, which has the same aspiration as SEAMEO that is capacity building for human resource development. Later, there will be an official affiliate member certificate presentation to the CEAIE.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year 2015 is a very important year indeed for SEAMEO and all member countries. It is the year to celebrate 50 consecutive years of establishment of SEAMEO as an organization. The efficient performance of SEAMEO in the past 50 years reflects jointed-effort of SEAMEO Member countries and the SEAMEO regional centres, which has contributed to SEAMEO to be the important mechanism of human resource development in the region.

This important opportunity that I am to work as the new SEAMEO Council president for two years term, I would like to confirm my commitment to strengthen SEAMEO’s programmes and practices. I am ready to collaborate with all member countries for the investment in an area of human resource development for our people to be quality global
citizen. One approach to achieve this goal is to adopt His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej’s sufficiency economy philosophy as guidance to the regional education development. This philosophy, I am certain that the SEAMEO Council members are aware of it, is similar to the education for sustainable development concept with focus on balancing mind with other developmental aspects happening in today’s world.

Furthermore, the Ministry of Education, Thailand, has initiated a programme to avail opportunities for everyone to have access to quality education by promoting distance education through satellite delivery. This program extends the model implemented by “Wang Klai Kang Won” school, which is a school under His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej patronage. This programme aims to solve problem of disparity in education for students in the remote area in Thailand including the arrangement of small schools (schools with 120 students or less). Currently Ministry of Education Thailand advocates application of other use ICT to provide equal success to quality education to all people so that they are able to learn by themselves and be ready to face challenges in the changing world.

Consequently, at this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, a policy forum on the topic of "Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens" is set for everyone to brainstorm and exchange ideas so as we can apply in each country’s context appropriately.

According to Thailand’s educational development issue, presently Thailand Ministry of Education is in the process of education reform at all level: basic education, vocational education, and higher education. We pay significant intention in improving curriculum as well as teachers to be a role model for students and society, and to be a key device of students’ lifelong learning skill learning in the future. To achieve this goal, we have initiated the Princess Maha Chakri Award - PMCA, an award given to teachers who have dedicated and sacrificed themselves for pedagogical development and create impact towards human resource development in SEAMEO Member Countries. Recently, I have been informed that all our member countries give full support to this programme and that the list of outstanding teachers has been selected. These teachers will come to the awarding ceremony on October 2, 2015 in Bangkok.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

2015 is the year of transition of “Education for All” goal. Every country have to obtain the “Education for All” goal and moving towards post 2015 education agenda. Every country has a mission to achieve this educational goal, which is the development agenda of the United Nations. That aim is to provide equal access to quality education and lifelong learning to everyone. I am confident that the efficiency of SEAMEO and the capacity of SEAMEO Regional Centres together with the 11 member countries will enable the regional integration that will promote regional development for the prosperity and peace for our peoples. Together as an organization, SEAMEO has been recognized as a good model for educational collaboration for the achievement of Education for All.

I hope that the Ministerial Round Table on the theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” during this 48th SEAMEO Council conference will be another platform for the SEAMEO to discuss, and exchange ideas on policy direction for the implementation of SEAMEO programme and activities in the next decade. We will develop the recommendation from the SEAMEO College Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers in September 2014, Vientiane, Lao PDR, as a base for discussion. The 7 priority areas of SEAMEO are 1) Early childhood care and education 2) Addressing barriers to inclusion 3) Resiliency in the face of emergencies 4) Promoting technical and vocational education and training(TVET) 5) Teacher Education 6) Harmonization in higher education and research and 7) Adopting a 21st century curriculum
Distinguished Ministers and honorable guests,

On the occasion of being elected as the SEAMEO Council president, and the chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, I would like to confirm my commitment to strengthen collaboration with all SEAMEO member countries, associate members, affiliate members, SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centres, and all partners to effectively implement the programmes and services of SEAMEO so that it becomes the important mechanism in education development in the region.

Thank you very much.
# Plenary Session - Agenda

## I. Opening Ceremony

## II. Plenary Session 1 Opening Formalities

1. Opening Remarks and Report of the SEAMEO Council President

2. Election of the SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

3. Election of the SEAMEO Council Vice-President and the Vice-Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

4. Presentation of Testimonial Plaque to the Outgoing SEAMEO Council President

5. Remarks of the Newly-Elected SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson

6. Adoption of Agenda and Programme

7. Opening Statements by Heads of Delegation of Member Countries

8. Presentation of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Certificate to China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)

## III. Plenary Session 2 Reports and Proposals

10. Matters for Acknowledgment (MC-48/WP/1)

### A. Confirmation of Decision on 24 Ad Referendum Working Papers

11. Follow-up Actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by Referendum on Working Papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, Plenary Session (MC-48/WP/2)

12. Summary of Agreements of the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2014 and Follow-up Actions (MC-48/WP/3)

13. Status and Utilization of Associate Membership Contributions to the SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/4)

14. Status and Utilization of Thailand’s Additional Contribution to the SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/5)

15. Status of the SEAMEO Educational Development Fund (MC-48/WP/6)

16. Investment of Funds at the SEAMEO Secretariat in FY2013/2014 (MC-48/WP/7)
| 19. | Contribution of SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Donors and Partner Institutions to SEAMEO during FY2013/2014 (MC-48/WP/10) |
| 23. | Report on the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members (MC-48/WP/14) |
| 24. | Update on SEAMEO-Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Programme (MC-48/WP/15) |
| 25. | Update on the SEAMEO Secretariat’s Collaboration with Partners (MC-48/WP/16) |
| 26. | Update on SEAMEO-UNESCO Project on Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia (MC-48/WP/17) |
| 27. | SEARCA-RELC Pilot Programme on English Language Training for Southeast Asian Graduate Students in 2015 (MC-48/WP/18) |
| 28. | Update on the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Celebration (MC-48/WP/19) |
| 30. | Results of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Link: SEAMEO’s Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions (MC-48/WP/21) |
| 31. | The Top Global University Project and Enhancing Collaboration of the University of Tsukuba with SEAMEO Member Countries (MC-48/WP/22) |
| 33. | Report on the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) (MC-48/WP/24) |

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| B. Reports and Working Papers for Presentation |
| 35. | Update on the Implementation of SEAMEO College: Strengthening SEAMEO’s Capacity to Promote Education and Social Development in Southeast Asia (MC-48/WP/26) |
| 37. | Update on Developments in Pursuance of Recommendations from Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) and SEAMEO Congress: SEAMEO Capacity Building in Southeast Asia |
| 38. | Updated Information on the Regional Activities for Celebrating the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary |
| 40. | Tentative Schedule of the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference |
| C. Other Matters |
| IV. | Plenary Session 3 (Policy Forum)  
Theme: Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens |
| V. | Ministerial Round Table Meeting  
Theme: SEAMEO in the Next Decade |
| VI. | Review and Adoption of Conference Reports |
| VII. | Closing Formalities |
# Programme

## Wednesday, 6 May 2015

**Arrival of Delegates and Check-in at Hotel**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dress Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1200-1330 hrs</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
<td>(Larn Thong L1 Fl. : Heads of Delegation Grand Deck 2nd Fl. : Delegates)</td>
<td>Smart Casual</td>
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<tr>
<td>1430-1500 hrs</td>
<td>Registration for In-Camera Session</td>
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<tr>
<td>1500-1630 hrs</td>
<td>In-Camera Session(^1)</td>
<td>(Orchid Ballroom, 1st Fl.)</td>
<td>Lounge Suit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1630-1700 hrs</td>
<td>Refreshments</td>
<td>(Jomtien 1 Room, 1st Fl.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700-1810 hrs</td>
<td>Bilateral Meetings</td>
<td>(Jomtien 2&amp;3 Room, 1st Fl.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1700 hrs</td>
<td>Leave Hotel (for Delegates)</td>
<td>(Lobby of Royal Cliff Grand Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>17.30 hrs</td>
<td>Arrive at the Zign Hotel Pattaya</td>
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<tr>
<td>1830 hrs</td>
<td>Heads of Delegation leave Hotel</td>
<td>(Lobby of Royal Cliff Grand Hotel)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1900-2100 hrs</td>
<td>Dinner hosted by the Governor of Chonburi Province</td>
<td>(Fidella Grand Ballroom, The Zign Hotel)</td>
<td>Smart Casual</td>
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## Thursday, 7 May 2015

**Registration for the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Dress Code</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0830 -0900 hrs</td>
<td>Registration for the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference</td>
<td>(In front of Orchid Ballroom, 1st Fl.)</td>
<td>Lounge Suit</td>
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<tr>
<td>0930-1030 hrs</td>
<td>I. Opening Ceremony</td>
<td>(Head of State Chamber, 2nd Fl.)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>A. Arrival of the Guests of Honour</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B. Opening Ceremony</td>
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<td>• SEAMEO Colours</td>
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<td>• SEAMEO Song</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Opening Speech by <strong>His Excellency Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam and President of SEAMEO Council</strong></td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Welcome Speech and Official Opening by <strong>His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Minister of Education, Thailand</strong></td>
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\(^1\) The In-Camera Session is to be attended by Heads of Delegations and Designated Officials of Member and Associate Member Countries
C. Launch of SEAMEO 50th Anniversary celebration (VDO Presentation)

D. Presentation Ceremony of SEAMEO Recognition Award in conjunction with SEAMEO 50th Anniversary celebration
   by His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai
   Minister of Education, Thailand

E. Official Group Photo Session

1030-1045 hrs  Press Conference  (Jomtien 8 Room, 2nd Fl.)

1030-1100 hrs  Refreshments  (Jomtien 1 Room, 1st Fl. : Heads of Delegation
                          the foyer, Orchid Ballroom : Delegates)

1100-1200 hrs  II. Plenary Session 1  (Orchid Ballroom, 1st Fl.)

   - Opening Formalities

   A. Opening Remarks and Report of the SEAMEO Council President

   B. Election of the SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson of the 48th
      SEAMEO Council Conference

   C. Election of the SEAMEO Council Vice-President and the Vice-Chairperson of
      the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

   D. Presentation of Testimonial Plaque to the Outgoing SEAMEO Council
      President

   E. Remarks of the Newly-Elected SEAMEO Council President and Chairperson

   F. Adoption of Agenda and Programme

   G. Opening Statements by Heads of Delegation of Member Countries

   H. Presentation of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Certificate to
      China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE)

1200-1330 hrs  Lunch  (Larn Thong L1 Fl. & Grand Deck 2nd Fl.)

1330-1500 hrs  III. Plenary Session 2  (Orchid Ballroom, 1st Fl.)

   - Reports and Proposals

   A. Matters for Acknowledgment (MC-48/WP/1)

   B. Confirmation of Decision on 24 Ad Referendum Working Papers

      1. Follow-up Actions on the Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council by
         Referendum on Working Papers endorsed by the 36th SEAMEO High
         Officials Meeting, Plenary Session (MC-48/WP/2)

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         2014 and Follow-up Actions (MC-48/WP/3)

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         SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/4)

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         SEAMEO Secretariat (MC-48/WP/5)

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23. Report on the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) (MC-48/WP/24)
C. Reports and Working Papers for Presentation
   1. Update on the Implementation of SEAMEO College: Strengthening SEAMEO’s Capacity to Promote Education and Social Development in Southeast Asia (MC-48/WP/26)
   2. Innovative Education Policies and Strategies for the Region: Recommendations from the SEAMEO Congress and the Special Ministerial Session (MC-48/WP/27)
   3. Updates on Developments in Pursuance of Recommendations from Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) and SEAMEO Congress: SEAMEO Capacity Building in Southeast Asia
   4. Updated Information on the Regional Activities for Celebrating the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary
   5. SEAMEO Integrated Annual Report FY2013/2014
   6. Tentative Schedule of the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference

D. Other matters

E. Closing Remarks by the Chair

1500-1530 hrs Refreshments (Jomtien 1 Room, 1st Fl. & the foyer, Orchid Ballroom)

1530-1630 hrs IV. Plenary Session 3 (Orchid Ballroom, 1st Fl.)
   - Policy Forum
     Theme: Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens
     Keynote Speaker: H E Dr Teerakiat Jareonsettasin
                     Vice Minister for Education
                     Ministry of Education, Thailand
     Moderator: Ms Porntip Kanjananiyot
                  Former Executive Director of Thailand – US Education Foundation

1700-1810 hrs Bilateral Meetings (Jomtien 2&3 Room, 1st Fl.)

1900-2100 hrs Dinner Reception hosted by the Ministry of Education, Thailand (PEACH Hall A, 3rd Fl.)

Souvenirs Presentation to the Heads of Delegations

Presentation of SEAMEO Awards
   1. SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award
   2. SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award
   3. SEAMEO-ACC Sports Education Innovation Award

Photo Session of SEAMEO Service Award Recipients

Speeches on the SEAMEO Awards and SEAMEO Service Awards

Dress Code:
Head of Delegation – Thai Silk shirt
Delegate - National Costumes/Smart Casual

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Friday, 8 May 2015

0830-1000 hrs V. Ministerial Round Table Meeting\(^2\)  
(Head of State Chamber, 2\(^{nd}\) Fl.)

Theme: SEAMEO in the Next Decade  
Dress Code: Lounge Suit

Moderator: Dr Tinsiri Siribodhi  
Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

1000-1030 hrs Refreshments  
(Jomtien 1 Room, 1\(^{st}\) Fl. & the foyer, Orchid Ballroom)

1030-1130 hrs VI. Review and Adoption  
(Orchid Ballroom, 1\(^{st}\) Fl.)

• In-Camera Session Report\(^1\)

1130-1230 hrs VII. Review and Adoption  
(Orchid Ballroom, 1\(^{st}\) Fl.)

• Plenary Session Report\(^3\)

1230-1245 hrs VIII. Closing Formalities

1245-1300 hrs Press Conference  
(Jomtien 8 Room, 2\(^{nd}\) Fl.)

1300-1430 hrs Lunch  
(Larn Thong L1 Fl. & Grand Deck 2\(^{nd}\) Fl.)

1430-1800 hrs End of Conference

Departure of Delegates

1900-2030 hrs Dinner  
(Chrysanthemum, L2 Fl.)

Saturday, 9 May 2015

0800 hrs Departure of Delegates

\(^2\) The Ministerial Round Table Meeting is to be attended by Heads of Delegations and Designated Officials of Member Countries.

\(^3\) The Review and Adoption of Conference Reports is to be attended by Heads of Delegations and Designated Officials of Member and Associate Member Countries, SEAMEO Affiliate Members, SEAMEO Centre Directors and Secretary-General/Coordinator, and Officials from SEAMEO Centres and SEAMEO Secretariat.
Opening Statements of SEAMEO Member Countries

Appendix VII-A  Brunei Darussalam
Appendix VII-B  Cambodia
Appendix VII-C  Indonesia
Appendix VII-D  Lao PDR
Appendix VII-E  Malaysia
Appendix VII-F  Myanmar
Appendix VII-G  Philippines
Appendix VII-H  Singapore
Appendix VII-I  Timor Leste
His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai,

President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference,

Excellencies, Distinguished Members of the Council and Heads of Delegation,

Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, SEAMEO Secretariat Director,

Centre Directors,

Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

First and foremost, on behalf of Brunei Darussalam delegation, I would like to record our sincere thanks and appreciation to the Government of Thailand through the Ministry of Education, and the local host, the Governor and People of Chonburi Province, for the generous hospitality extended to us during this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference.

I would also like to express our sincere congratulations to His Excellency Minister of Education Thailand on his election and appointment as the President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairperson of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, and to His Excellency Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia on his election as the Vice-President. We look forward to working with you and giving you our full support during your tenure. Your elections are at a most significant time as we celebrate our Golden SEAMEO (50th anniversary) this year.

Please allow me to take this opportunity to thank the out-going 47th President of the SEAMEO Council, His Excellency Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam for his outstanding contribution in leading the Organization in the past two years. His leadership during his presidency of this honoured Council has further strengthened achievements in our effort in education, especially in this region.

Likewise I would also like to recognize the achievement and contribution of the former Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Dr Witaya Jeradechakul for his hard work, commitment and dedication during his term of office and extend a warm welcome to Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, the new Director of SEAMEO Secretariat. I have also had the pleasure and opportunity to work with Dr Witaya during my tenure of presidency from 2011 to 2013 for which I will cherish.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The conduct of this conference is indeed very timely, as we celebrate SEAMEO 50th anniversary. This is a vintage point where we reflect upon our achievements and progress, the challenges and barriers we encountered in meeting our goals and objectives, and analyze our shortcomings.
In moving forward and planning for the next decade, we need to evaluate our priorities, address common areas of concern to the region so we can contribute to further develop our education. In this context, I look forward to the sessions and non-formal sessions to exchange ideas on how we could pave our journey in the next decade.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In building teachers’ capacity, Brunei Darussalam has embarked on the English as a Foreign Language Fellows Exchange Programme since 2013. Since then, we have assigned 18 English language teachers to different institutions in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam for a 10-month placement.

Another initiative that we launched late last year is the English Teacher Apprenticeship Programme. This programme provides our graduates the opportunity to become English Teaching Apprentices where they can develop and enhance their preparation as teachers of English while at the same time nurture their entrepreneurial skills. Part of this programme is a 10-month mentored teaching placements in primary schools in Cambodia and Lao PDR.

Through these programmes, we hope not only to help in improving the English teaching capacity but also contribute to intercultural understanding among the participants and host country and at the same time to realize the ASEAN Community. We hope to sustain these programmes in the years to come.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

To conclude, allow me once again thank His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipathanasai for the generous hospitality that you have extended to us. I would also like to commend the SEAMEO Secretariat and Conference Secretariat for the excellent effort they have given for the success of this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. Thank you.
Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, on behalf of Cambodian delegation, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipattanasai, Minister of Education of Thailand on being elected as the President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairman of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, and congratulate His Excellency Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture of the Republic of Indonesia on being elected as Vice-Chairman of this Conference. We are confident that under your leadership, SEAMEO will strengthen education co-operation among member countries as well as expand partnership to improve education, science, technology and culture in Southeast Asia. I also wish to express our sincere appreciation to His Excellency Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, out-going President of the SEAMEO Council, for the strong commitments and excellent work during the past two years.

I would like to take this opportunity to convey my appreciation to SEAMEO Member States, Associate members, and SEAMEO partners for all their efforts and contribution to the enhancement of understanding and cooperation in the cause of promoting education, science, technology and culture, which are crucial to our regional social and economic development, and the acceleration of progress toward the Millennium Development Goals (MDG) and Education for All (EFA). My appreciation also goes to SEAMEO centers’ significant accomplishment in developing and delivering relevant programs that respond to the labor market, industries and socio-economic development needs at local, national and regional levels.

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The development of human resources with quality, ability and virtue is a key factor to support economic growth and the country's competitiveness in the future especially as Cambodia is a low middle income country and aims to be a high average income country in 2030 and a developed country in 2050. To this purpose, human resource development is crucial for us to build knowledge, competence, entrepreneurship, skills, creativity and innovation in all sectors but especially science and technology and the ability to manage the quality of lives.
The Royal Government of Cambodia is aware of the importance of the SEAMEO initiatives under the SEAMEO Vision 2020 and we have worked to establish the Cambodia Vision 2030 whose achievements will certainly contribute to attainment of the SEAMEO objectives. As a result of these policies, Cambodia has made considerable progress, including education and human resource development. These achievements align well with SEAMEO’s strategy and vision. However, the Royal Government of Cambodia continues to strive for enhancement in knowledge, innovation, and creativity so as to optimize potential human resources for national, regional development.

On the basis of Education Strategic Plan 2014-2018, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia has laid out some key measures in order to reform education sector for short and medium-term on (1) Implementation of in-depth reform on public financial management, (2) Strengthen personnel management, (3) Strengthen of all kind exams, (4) Creating of think-tank of education sector, (5) Higher Education Reform, (6) Raising quality, (7) Development of Technical Skills and Soft Skills for Youth, and (8) Reform on Physical Education and Sport. The priority is reflected in the Royal Government of Cambodia’s policy documents including the Rectangular Strategy for Growth, Employment, and Equity Phase III, National Strategic Development Plan, and Education Strategic Plan which aim at improving access to quality education. Consequently, the Royal Government of Cambodia has mobilized resources to invest in public and private school.

The long-term education vision of Cambodia will focus on all aspects of early childhood development (ECD) and early childhood care and education (ECCE) as it is one of seven priority areas for Post-2015 education agenda in the region, and reflected in a robust and comprehensive ways across the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) framework, to provide a strong foundation for other levels of education. It will focus on students at early grades of primary education especially building reading and mathematics skills. The education sector will expand its scope of Education for All from primary education 6 years to 9 years basic education. Graduates from basic education will be traced upon their strength to select general secondary education or technical and vocational education. The strengthening of quality will focus on the quality of inputs, teaching and learning processes and student achievement. There is also a focus on the qualification of teachers who will be upgraded from 12+2 to 12+4 by the year 2020. And focus on the quality of curriculum at general education and higher education according to the quality standards of our region.

While we have achieved an impressive primary net enrolment rate of 98% and considerably reduced illiteracy, we recognize the efforts required for improving the quality of education at all levels. Our further commitments is to seek collective means to bring the rest of children to school, and extend enrolment in secondary education, and encourage enrolment for science, technology, and education at higher education level. To this purpose, and in this era of the 21st Century, driven by demands for a dynamic economy, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia need to pursue new kinds of partnerships that can help achieving sustainable economic growth and poverty reduction through the exchange of education services across borders to share ideas, knowledge and experience for the benefit of our people and the region as a whole.

Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,
In view of education is deemed the most important area a country invests in, I would like to inform the conference that the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of the Kingdom of Cambodia in cooperation with SEAMEO Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand is pleased to host the Fifth Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members with the corresponding theme: "Quality Assurance Framework for Basic Education" which will be held from 11 to 12 June 2015 in Siem Reap, Angkor Wat. I would therefore like to cordially invite the high officials of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members to participate in the event to address our common educational concerns and experiences on best practices with workable solutions and practical recommendations for future improvements relating to formulation of educational policies which contribute to the overall objective of improving education quality.

Finally, we would like to express our deep gratitude to the Government and people of Thailand, through the Ministry of Education of Thailand, for their kind support and hospitality. We wish to extend our appreciation to SEAMEO member countries, Associate members, donors, and the affiliate members for their kind and continued support to SEAMEO activities. We also wish to extend our thanks to SEAMEO Secretariat for the services and preparation of this conference.

Thank you.
H E Admiral Narong Pipatnasai, Minister of Education, Thailand,

Excellencies Education Ministers from SEAMEO Member Countries,

H E Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat,

Honorable Representatives from SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members,

Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

A very good morning to all of you.

On behalf of the government of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to express my highest appreciation to the Kingdom of Thailand and the SEAMEO Secretariat for successfully convening the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference here in this beautiful city of Chonburi. A special gratitude goes to the people of Thailand for the warm welcome addressed to us.

My sincere thanks to H E Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam for the outstanding works as the President of the SEAMEO Council for the 2013-2015 periods. I would also like to congratulate H E Admiral Narong Pipatnasai who has been elected as the President of the SEAMEO Council for the next two years.

Congratulation also goes to H E Gatot Hari Priowirjanto who has been elected as the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat for the 2015-2019 terms.

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I cannot emphasize how important 2015 are for us. In the framework of ASEAN cooperation, we will embark on a journey called the ASEAN Economic Community. A journey that will also become a test case of the region economic potential. In SEAMEO, this year we are celebrating the 50th year of our long lasting cooperation. A partnership that was marked with joint initiatives and collaboration in the area of education, training, and human resource development. A partnership that enable us to contribute to the social, economic, and cultural advancement of the region.

I am delighted to know that we are celebrating our 50th anniversary by agreeing on the need of having education systems that are transparent, resilient against disasters and conflicts, proactive, visionary, future-oriented, and more welcome to private entities. On that note, the Government of Indonesia along with its six SEAMEO Centers would once again emphasize our commitment to support the seven priority areas of cooperation that was agreed at the Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) on 13 September 2014 in Lao PDR.

Excellencies, Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

All in all, let me use this occasion to once again express my sincere gratitude and appreciation to Excellencies, SEAMEO Secretariat, our Associate Member and Affiliate Member for the outstanding cooperation and support.

Thank you.
Opening Statement by
H E Madame Sengdeuane Lachanthaboune
Deputy Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR

His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand, President of SEAMEO and Chairman of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference,

Excellency Ministers,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is indeed my great pleasure and honour, on behalf of the Ministry of Education of Lao PDR, to attend the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference being held here in the beautiful city of Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand.

Today, it is my great honour, on behalf of the Ministry of Education and Sports of Lao PDR and the Lao delegation, I would like to express my sincere thanks and heartfelt congratulations to the Government of Thailand, especially the Ministry of Education of Thailand for hosting this 48th SEAMEO Council Conference and providing us the opportunity to attend this event.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to extend my warmest regards to all distinguished delegates who attend the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I am confident that your participations in the conference will contribute to strengthening future cooperation and mutual assistance in general, especially in the field of human resources development among SEAMEO member countries and between SEAMEO member countries and the International Organizations concerned.

On behalf of the Lao delegation, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipathanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand for being elected President of SEAMEO and Chairman of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. I am confident that under your Chairmanship, all important topics and issues shared in the conference will be dealt with and adopted in a more constructive and effective manner.

May I also express my special thanks and congratulations to His Excellency Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam, President of SEAMEO and Chairman of the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference for his tireless effort in enhancing cooperation and fostering educational Development in the SEAMEO member countries in his term of presidency of the 47th SEAMEO Council

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As SEAMEO is getting bigger, I am confident that the role of SEAMEO will become even broader and more dynamic, especially in the area of human resources development. According to its fine tradition of cooperation, SEAMEO has made its effort through its secretariat and centers to strengthen cooperation amongst member countries in speeding up human resource development. At this point, I should congratulate the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Centers for their outstanding works over the past year.
As SEAMEO member countries are moving forward to further strengthen our co-operation in the field of education, the post 2015 seven priorities adopted at the SDEM on 13 September in Vientiane, Lao PDR have become a concrete foundation for our future development. In this connection, Lao PDR has put more focus on priority 1 “Early childhood care and education”, priority 4 “technical and vocational education and training” and priority 5 “Teacher Education”.

With regard to the establishment of a SEAMEO Center in Lao PDR, please be informed that now we are at the stage of doing a feasibility study. In November 2015, a delegation paid two a study visit to SEAMEO RETRAC in Hochiminh City in Vietnam and in February 2015 another study visit to SEAMEO CHAT, Myanmar. During the two visits our teams had a chance to exchange views with the Directors and staff of two centers and learn a lot about the process of the establishment. Now the feasibility is under process.

Last but not least, May I express my sincere thanks once again to the Government of Thailand, especially the Ministry of Education of Thailand, the organizing committee of the conference and supporting staff for the warmest welcome and hospitality you have extended to us during our stay here in the beautiful city, in Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand.

May I wish the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference a great success!

Thank you very much for your attention
Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an honour to be here in Pattaya, Thailand, at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. Over the years, the Conference has developed an outstanding record of enacting working policies and initiatives to address regional issues and challenges in education. I am confident that the outcomes of this year’s conference will add further to our ongoing efforts to improve the quality of education in this region.

Before I proceed, please allow me to congratulate H E Admiral Narong Pipatanasai on being elected President of the 48th SEAMEO Council, and Chairperson of this conference. I wish you well and I am certain that you will continue to guide us as we move forward to accomplish the goals of this conference. On the same note, I would also like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to H E Pham Vu Luan for His Excellency’s outstanding leadership during his tenure as President of the 47th SEAMEO Council.

Ladies and gentlemen,

50 years on, and with 21 Specialized Centres, SEAMEO has come a long way in supporting and complementing our education needs. However, fast changing landscape out there compels us to innovate further and faster.

At the national level, Malaysia is pleased to inform that just one month ago, on 7th April 2015, we launched the Malaysia Higher Education Blueprint. This Higher Education Blueprint complements the existing Education Blueprint for Pre-school to Post-Secondary Education which was launched in 2013, and through both of them, we we aim to provide seamless educational opportunities at all levels for Malaysians and international students alike.

Allow me to briefly share a conversation I had with one of my officers. On his way to the hair dresser, he was delayed because roads were closed due to Mass Rail Transit (railway) work. A huge crane, 50 meters high, was piling the overhead span of the railway track. Further down the road, a huge hole in the ground could be seen. Tunelling work was on-going. Many young-looking technicians could be seen busy at work. Once he cleared the MRT-work area, his car tyre punctured. Fortunately, there was a workshop nearby. While waiting for his tyre to be fixed, he ate at a Western-Asian fusion burger restaurant named “Teriyaki Burger” – there are many in Kuala Lumpur nowadays. Upon continuing his journey, he almost got into an accident at a traffic light. He was distracted by an animation advertisement on a big digital billboard. Finally, he arrived at the hairdresser, where he not only got a haircut, but a shoulder massage.
From the story I shared, the believe that message is clear: Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) touches almost every aspect of our lives. From construction of advanced railways to tyre workshops, from fusion foods to animation hubs and haircuts, skill-based knowledge and expertise are essential to our livelihood, wellbeing and development.

Because of this, TVET is a priority to the Malaysian government, and both of our Education Blueprints outline a clear vision for TVET, from preschool right up to higher education. It will also play a vital role in our lifelong learning efforts.

Ladies and gentlemen,

These are some of the initiatives undertaken by Malaysia in meeting our national education needs.

I am sure that as we deliberate on our various projects and programmes during the conference, we will learn that there are similarities in our educational objectives and we will be able to draw on one another's experiences and expertise and find ways to enhance our efforts to fulfill our shared educational goals.

I look forward to constructive discussions on all platforms provided in the coming days and let me end by assuring you of our outmost support in carrying forward the work of SEAMEO in the spirit of strong cooperation and collaboration that has resulted in great success in our joint endeavours.

Thank you.
Mr Chairman,

Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the members of the Myanmar Delegation and myself, I would like to extend my congratulations to His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai on his appointment as President of the 48th SEAMEO Council and Chairman of this Conference. I am certain that through your Excellency’s able leadership SEAMEO will be able to expand further its activities to improve the quality of education and life in the region. I also wish to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to His Excellency Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan for his excellent guidance of the Organization during the past year.

I would also like to express my sincere gratitude to the Government and the people of Thailand for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to us.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 48th SEAMEO Council Conference may be said to be a highly auspicious in the millennium which is full of promises as well as challenges; and the one hold in the year of the 50th anniversary of SEAMEO. On the one hand, rapid developments in the field of Information Technology promises more effective means to provide quality education. On the other hand, we need to meet the demands of a larger number of people for greater access to education, training, retraining and life-long learning opportunities. In addition we also face the challenges of globalization.

Mr Chairman,

The Myanmar government has made reform of the entire higher education system a national priority. Myanmar National Education Law enacted in September 2014 was designed to reform the country’s outdated education system.

However as opposition to Myanmar’s National Education bill grew and concerns over the law later turned into protests, different groups and individuals have come together toward a better education system, educationalists and legal advisors share opinions on education amendment bill and Nay Pyi Taw Hluttaw Committees are discussing national Education Bill in accordance to the will of the people so that the education law will be at its best.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Myanmar has participated in the activities of a large number of SEAMEO Centres such as INNOTECH, RIHED, RECSAM, RELC, SEAMOLEC, SEARCA, SPAFA and VOCTECH. We thank all these Centres for their assistance. Special mention must be made of RELC for its generous offers of scholarships and for its invitation to Myanmar to participate in its Southeast Asian Language Project.
We hope to receive the continued support of SEAMEO in our effort to enhance the qualitative development of our education. On our part we expect to contribute to regional development through the Regional Centre for History and Tradition and by participating actively in all SEAMEO endeavours.

Mr Chairman and Distinguished Delegates,

In conclusion, I wish to state that I am confident that the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference will be able to chart out effective plans to assist Member Countries in their attempt to develop their human resources to bring greater prosperity and progress to their peoples by means of education.

Thank you.
Opening Statement by
H E Atty Alberto Jesus Tiongson Muyot
Undersecretary (Deputy Minister)
Department of Education, Philippines

His Excellency Dr Pham Vu Luan, Director Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, His Excellencies, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen, good afternoon.

On behalf of our Secretary of Education, H E Br Armin A Luistro FSC, we would like to thank the Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training for the fruitful visit of the SEAMEO Council President, HE Pham Vu Luan, to the Philippines last January. We are honored that you visited the SEAMEO Centers we host, as well as our Department Secretary, Br Armin A Luistro FSC.

We congratulate you for your successful term as the SEAMEO Council President, especially for the establishment of the SEAMEO regional centre for lifelong learning (SEAMEO CELLL) and the various activities of the SEAMEO College.

We would like to congratulate the newly-elected SEAMEO Council President, His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipathanasai. We look forward to your leadership in the acceleration of achieving the vision of Golden SEAMEO by 2020.

2015 marks the ASEAN Integration, the deadline for achieving both EFA goals, and MDGs. Thus, this meeting is significant as we prepare for the post-2015 scenario in education, SDGs, and assessment of what we have done so far.

Also, 2015 marks the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary, 50 years of service to the people of Southeast Asia. Let us continue to be the epitome of excellence in education in the region.

We salute the SEAMEO 50th Anniversary Recognition Awardees as they inspire the present and next generation to have the same dedication and passion for giving a better quality of life for the people in Southeast Asia. We thank you for all your significant contributions in putting forward initiatives for education through the diverse programs of SEAMEO. Without you, SEAMEO will not be where it is now, taking pride in its vast achievements over the decades as Southeast Asia’s leading organization promoting education, science and culture. Truly, your expertise and time for the various activities and programs of SEAMEO are greatly valued.

We would also like to extend our appreciation to the SEAMEO Member countries who sent their delegates to the ASEAN Student Exchange Program and the ASEAN Schools Games held in the Philippines in the last quarter of 2014. The two events has been significant where the youth from the different Southeast Asian Nations came together, got to know and learned from each other. It was a great venue where they realized their similarities, socialized and made friends with youth from their neighboring countries.

We would like to share with you our education reforms in the Philippines and our efforts to reach the unreached. We are in the process of fully implementing a revised curriculum with a view of producing high school graduates who are ready for higher education or the world of work. In our efforts to reach the unreached, we aim to map out-of-school-youth in the Philippines and provide them opportunities in alternative education, entrepreneurship and employment; out of the 2 Million target, 1.9 Million have been mapped and more than 400,000 have been enrolled in various programs.
We are one with the rest of the SEAMEO Member Countries in the firm belief that education is the key to the development of the region.

Thank you.
Mr Chairman,

Your Excellencies,

Distinguished Delegates,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the Singapore delegation, I would like to congratulate His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand on his election as President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairman of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. Under your leadership, SEAMEO will surely continue to help all member countries meet their education challenges and raise the educational quality in Southeast Asia.

I would also like to congratulate His Excellency Dr Anies Rasyid Baswedan, Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia on being elected as Vice Chairman of the Conference.

May I also take this opportunity to commend Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam, on his stewardship of and contribution to SEAMEO over the last two years.

This year is a special year as it is the 50th anniversary of SEAMEO. As we look back on our accomplishments in the last five decades, let us also keep our eyes on the future and look forward to another 50 good years for SEAMEO.

EDUCATION FOR THE FUTURE

We have all made many strides in our respective education systems, retaining things that have worked, improving them and abandoning things that have not. All of us have one common goal, to provide the best for our students so that they are not only prepared for school but for life. That they may face the challenges of an ever-changing world with determination, grit and character.

Education goes beyond school, learning goes beyond school, beyond the textbooks and lessons taught in the classroom. Education is an endeavour that involves everyone in society, from the students themselves to parents, teachers and employers.

While academic learning is important, we need to redefine the concept of learning and what we are learning for. Ultimately, we learn for life, to be able to live a fulfilling life, one that we can be proud of. One where we can contribute meaningfully to our families, friends, to society at large, and dare I say, the world.

ROLE OF SEAMEO

In our globalised world, our students will grow up to travel more in our region and beyond, both for leisure and for work. They must know how to apply the knowledge and skills that they have learnt in different situations and diverse cultures. With increased interaction and learning between us, we can better appreciate our diverse and rich cultures, better understand each other - to live, work and thrive together as a region.
As we form the ASEAN Economic Community in 2015, it is timely for us to reaffirm that SEAMEO continues to play a crucial role, working closely with ASEAN, to create opportunities for us to learn from each other and learn together as a united Southeast Asia.

The education and opportunities we provide will be important in many ways – to sharpen our youth’s understanding of regional developments, to foster cross-cultural awareness, and to create opportunities for us to build friendships that will last. Education will help us foster a stronger regional community. I am glad that SEAMEO, through the work of our Regional Centres and the Secretariat, has continually sought to review and introduce initiatives that facilitate such exchanges. I would like to extend my appreciation for their good work.

CONCLUSION

I would like to conclude by expressing my appreciation to the Government of Thailand, as well as the people of Thailand for their warm hospitality.

I look forward to a meaningful and fruitful discussion at this Conference.

Thank you.
Your Excellency, Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, President of SEAMEO Council, Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam,

Excellencies,

Fellow Ministers of Education/Head of Delegation from the SEAMEO Member Countries,

Honorable Director of SEAMEO Secretariat,

Associate Member as well as Affiliate Member Countries,

SEAMEO Counterparts, Teachers, Education practitioners,

Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Afternoon

I would like to begin by extending my sincere thanks and appreciation to the Ministry of Education of Thailand and SEAMEO Secretariat for the kind invitation to attend this 48th SEAMEC Conference.

I am honored to be present in the SEAMEC event for the first time, and have the opportunity to address this opening statement. Although I have recently become the Minister of Education in February this year, I am aware on the importance of the visible contribution of SEAMEO towards Timor-Leste in education development. In that context, the contribution has been significantly underlined by the visit of SEAMEO Council President, H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan and the Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, Dr Tinsiri, as well as the delegation in January this year.

I may inform that during the visit of the President of the SEAMEO Council, there was a chance for all Governing Board members and other relevant professionals and academicians in Timor-Leste to exchange ideas in order to strengthen the collaboration, especially to work more effectively and closely with all SEAMEO Centers as well as SEAMEO Secretariat.

As the follow up from the visit, I am aware that it is imperative to establish the SEAMEO Center in Timor-Leste in order to accommodate the capacity building of local professionals in Timor-Leste from various areas of education and research, health, culture, and technology. As the message conveyed by the President Pham Vu Luan during the visit, that Timor-Leste is in immediate need to establish a center in Timor-Leste.

In this opportunity, I would like to restate the mentioned proposal; yet, the realization of the proposal could only be proceeded with the support from the SEAMEO member countries.
Excellencies Fellow Ministers,

Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am delighted to be a part of this highly competent group of experts from around Southeast Asian countries and its counterparts.

We share the same belief that education is the fundamental sector; through education we could change people’s life. In that sense, Timor-Leste is taking education as the highest priority to be improved through quality assurance and enhancement.

Timor-Leste has initiated those mentioned efforts, and we must also recognize that our Asian neighbors have influence and inspire our education policies – both through ideas contributed by various conferences of SEAMEO and other bilateral events with others in the region.

Geographically, Timor-Leste’s position in Asia is a great advantage to our future development. We hope to continue to more deeply strengthen our relationship and participation in SEAMEO, both as beneficiaries of being members of the group, especially in terms of human resource development and capacity building, and also as contributors to the continuous and evolving strength of the organization.

Excellencies,

Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Last but not least, on behalf of the Ministry of Education of Timor-Leste, particularly teachers, students, education practitioners and academicians, I would like to reiterate our gratitude to all SEAMEO member countries for the strong relationship that has been developed over the last few years. I look forward to meeting you all on an individual basis during the course of this conference, and I hope in the future, Timor-Leste could have a privilege to host SEAMEO meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste.

Thank You.