

Mission Report

5th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW), Guiyang, Guizhou Province, 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference, Chengdu, Sichua Province Meetings with Chinese Education Institutions

16-23 September 2012, Peoples Republic of China

A. SEAMEO Official and Staff Member on Mission

1. Witaya Jeradechackul, SEAMEO Secretariat Director
2. Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activities

1. In 16-23 September 2012, the SEAMEO Secretariat Director was invited to give Keynote Speech in two separate activities in Peoples Republic of China: the 5th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW), 17-20 September 2012, Guiyang, Guizhou Province and the 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference, 22-23 September 2012, Chengdu, Sichuan Province. With the assistance of ASEAN-China Centre (ACC), the SEAMEO Secretariat Director took the opportunity to introduce SEAMEO to Chinese education institutions and conduct exploratory discussions for possible cooperation. Likewise, SEAMEO Secretariat Director met with Secretary General of ACC and Deputy Director of International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education (MOE) China for follow up discussions on cooperative activities initially proposed during the official visit in Beijing of the Secretariat Director in May 2012.
2. The 5th CAECW with the theme 'Innovation and Cooperation', an annual activity organized by the Guizhou Provincial Department of Education (GPDE) is a platform to promote cooperation between ASEAN countries and China, especially on the area of education and culture. The participants were education officials, representatives from different local government agencies of China, university faculty and students.
3. The 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference has the theme *Asia Education: Towards a More Prosperous and Better Future*. The Chengdu Municipal Education Bureau has organized the activity as its strategy to open up China for education internationalization. Several themes were education in Western China, balanced education in urban and rural areas, Asian vocational education and regional mobility for teachers and students. Participants were representatives from international, regional, government and non-government organizations, university presidents, staff and students from different countries.
4. The following were the universities/education institutions, the SEAMEO Secretariat Director has met with, excluding ACC and MOE China:
 - No. 1 Middle School;
 - Guizhou University
 - Guiyang Medical Vocational College
 - Guizhou Nationalities University
 - Guizhou Medical University and
 - Guizhou Provincial Department of Education (GPDE)

C. Highlights of the Activities/Summary Points

The following table summarizes the highlights/results of SEAMEO Secretariat's participation to the CAECW and Education Forum for Asia and the meetings with the Chinese education institutions and universities:

Date	Activity/Objectives	Highlights of the Activities/Meeting Summary
Guiyang, Guizhou Province		
Day 0 (Sun) 16 September	Meeting with Principal of No. 1 Middle School,	Discussed possibility of student exchange between SEAMEO Member Countries and China
Day 1 (Mon)	Meeting with ASEAN-China	Discussed possibility of signing Memorandum of

17 September	Center Secretary General Mr Ma Mingqiang	<p>Understanding between SEAMEO and ACC;</p> <p>Clear framework for cooperation will be defined in the MOU which will include the following collaborative areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gateway for SEAMEO and Chinese education institutions collaboration • Joint research (i.e. SEAMEO-ACC-NIES <i>Education Resource Guide for SEAMEO Member Countries and China</i>); • Joint conference; • Co-supporting China-ASEAN Cooperation Week; • Teacher and student exchanges; <p>Possible signing of MOU in the 2nd quarter of 2013;</p>
Day 1 (Mon) 17 September	Meeting with Department of Director General Zhang Xiuqin of the International Cooperation and Exchanges, Ministry of Education, China	<p>Discussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common education challenges of SEAMEO and China (i.e. disparities in regional performance, student mobility); • Need for cooperation to promote education of Asian region; • Possible areas of cooperation between SEAMEO and China on teacher and student exchanges between SEAMEO Member Countries and China, exchanges of good practices/experiences on education; participation to SEAMEO activities/forum (i.e. SEAMEO College, SEAMEO Congress); • Lengthy internal process within <i>China for Associate Membership to SEAMEO</i> but cooperation activities could already be started;
Day 1 (Mon) 17 September	Participation to the 5 th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week	<p>Promoted SEAMEO's goals and nature of work and expressed interest to explore cooperation with Chinese education institutions;</p> <p>Provide recommendations to further enhance the conduct and content of the ASEAN-China Cooperation Week (i.e. selecting specific theme for the Cooperation Week, focusing on student and teacher's views on education and culture and promote networking by providing platform for discussions and sharing of views/experiences on education issues);</p>
Day 1 (Mon) 17 September	Meeting with President of Guiyang Medical Vocational College	<p>Discussed possible cooperation between SEAMEO and Guiyang Medical Vocational College on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct of medical-related programmes ; • Student/teacher exchanges, scholarship programmes; • Research activities on Chinese traditional medicines • Study visits; • Exchanges of information/resource materials on science; <p>SEAMEO and Guiyang Medical Vocational College to prepare a specific plan for the proposed cooperation;</p> <p>SEAMEO RIHED to be involved in future discussions;</p>
Day 1 (Mon) 17 September	Meeting with Guiyang Provincial Department of Education (GPDE), Director	<p>Discussed on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possibility of SEAMEO co-hosting/supporting future conduct of China-ASEAN Cooperation

	General Mr Huo Jiankang	<p>Week;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations to enhance the organization and design of the Cooperation Week (in terms of theme, rotation of venue in ASEAN countries, more opportunities for networking); • Other areas for cooperation such as teacher/student exchanges between universities in SEAMEO Member Countries and Chinese universities; <p>GPDE and SEAMEO discussed on how SEAMEO could maximize/add value to the Cooperation Week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation and organization of the Cooperation Week; • Designing of the Cooperation Week; • Technical experts from SEAMEO Centres to assist/serve as experts during the thematic sessions; • Formation of several planning committees; • Facilitate wider of SEAMEO Member Countries to participate in the Cooperation Week; <p>SEAMEO and GPDE explored possibility of signing MOU with ACC for the organization of the 6th China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week;</p> <p>SEAMEO to seek approval for the cooperative activities with China</p>
Day 2 (Tues) 18 September	Participation to the China-ASEAN University Rector's Forum, Guizhou University	<p>SEAMEO through SEAMEO RIHED promoted the work and programmes of SEAMEO on higher education, particularly those that aligned to the thrusts and priorities of China on student mobility, international exchanges, credit transfer system and quality assurance of programs;</p> <p>ASEAN University Network, RIHED and China's common concerns and priorities on enhancing student mobility (China's Double 100,000 Program)</p> <p>SEAMEO RIHED proposed areas that could be explored for possible cooperation such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student mobility; • Joint research, comparative study; • Internship; • Quality assurance
Day 2 (Tues) 18 September	Meeting with President of Guizhou University, Mr Zheng Qiang	<p>Discussed the following areas for cooperation between SEAMEO and Guizhou University:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Student and academic and cultural exchanges; • Joint research studies; • Short-term staff exchanges; • Resources/materials exchanges <p>Shared views/recommendations on improving the Cooperation Week;</p> <p>SEAMEO and Guizhou University discussed the need to develop specific plan for the student/teacher exchanges;</p>
Day 2 (Tues) 18 September	Meeting with President of Guizhou Nationalities University, Mr Wang	<p>Discussed on improving collaboration between Asian countries and China on the area of improving education for the ethnic minorities;</p>

		<p>Guizhou Nationalities University proposed cooperation on: (i) setting up of Confucius institutes in SEA countries promoting the teaching/instructions for Chinese minority culture; (ii) joint research; (iii) student/teacher exchanges and (iv) direct communication/collaboration with universities in Asia;</p> <p>SEAMEO Secretariat impressed the need to establish ACC as the channel for cooperation between SEAMEO and Chinese institutions;</p> <p>SEAMEO Secretariat recommended the promotion of ethnic minority education and culture as a specific theme for future Cooperation Week and the rotation of the venue for the Cooperation Week among Asian countries;</p> <p>Guizhou Nationalities University inquired and expressed interest to be an Affiliate Member of SEAMEO;</p> <p>SEAMEO Secretariat proposed possible participation of Guizhou Nationalities University to SEAMEO Congress;</p>
Day 3 (Wed) 19 September	Meeting of SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO TROPMED Network (Dr Sasithorn) with the President of Guizhou Medical University, Mr Hezlui Xu	<p>Guizhou Medical University presented the work of the University on microbiology, parasitology and tropical medicine;</p> <p>Discussed possibility of cooperating on (i) conducting joint research on tropical medicine, (ii) teacher/academic exchanges (short term) and visiting fellowship/professorship; (iii) research network collaboration and (iv) joint training courses or workshop programs</p>
Day 4 (Thu) 20 September	Wrap-Up Session with Director Wang Rui of Guizhou Education Center for International Exchange, GPDE and Deputy Director for Education, Culture and Tourism of ASEAN-China Center, Mr Wang Daoyu	<p>GPDE indicated that SEAMEO and its Centres could directly collaborate with the Chinese universities as these universities are autonomous and have certain specializations;</p> <p>SEAMEO and GPDE discussed possibility of signing of MOU for the co-hosting of the next Cooperation Week with ACC;</p> <p>SEAMEO explained internal approval of SEAMEO co-hosting such activity. GPDE's proposed holding next year's activity (6th) in March 2013 (back to back with SEAMEO Council Conference) may not be possible because of SEAMEO's internal approval process;</p> <p>GPDE and SEAMEO discussed the need to identify and agree on specific provisions of the MOU for the co-hosting of the Cooperation Week;</p> <p>SEAMEO indicated that there are other possible venues for co-organizing the Cooperation Week such as the SEAMEO Congress which is being planned for last quarter of 2013 or early 2014. Though the two activities may have different focus and objectives, they could be designed to be aligned/linked up;</p> <p>ACC and SEAMEO can sign a comprehensive cooperation framework that could include the co-supporting the Cooperation Week; GPDE and SEAMEO can have a separate MOU. Another</p>

		possibility is a tripartite agreement among SEAMEO, GPDE and ACC
Chengdu, Sichuan Province		
Day 5 (Fri) 21 September	Meeting with Organizing Committee of the 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference	Staff of the Organizing Committee provided brief orientation about the Forum and the events/activities for the 2-day activity;
Day 6 (Sat) 22 September	Participation to the 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference, Chengdu, Sichuan Province Parallel Session on Vocational Technical Education in Asia	Promoted the work and goals of SEAMEO and emphasize the need for further cooperation between Asian countries and China; Representatives from universities, government and business sectors presented different views, strategies and approaches on improving vocational technical education and opportunities for employment
Day 7 (Sun) 22 September	Participation to the 2012 Education Forum for Asia Annual Conference – Parallel Session on Internationalization of Education and International Exchanges	Presidents/Deans/Officials of different universities and education organizations have presented their strategies in the area of internationalization of education and student exchanges
End of Activities		

D. Follow Up Actions by SEAMEO Secretariat

The following are proposed follow up actions and suggested next steps for the SEAMEO Secretariat:

1. SEAMEO Secretariat to discuss the results of the meetings and identify proposed areas for collaboration that could be pursued by SEAMEO through the Centres;
2. Communicate with SEAMEO Centres about the meetings and the identified possible areas of collaboration and facilitate linking up of the education institutions with the appropriate SEAMEO Centres; and
3. SEAMEO Secretariat to report the results/highlights of the meetings and seek advice/recommendations/approval from the SEAMEO HOM and SEAMEO Council Conference on appropriate next steps and possibility of MOU signing;