



## Mission Report

### 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Meeting and the ASEAN State of Education Report Workshop

24 June 2013, ASEAN Secretariat Headquarters, Jakarta Indonesia

#### A. SEAMEO Official and Staff Member on Mission:

1. Dr Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director for Administration and Communication
2. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

#### B. Background and Objectives of the Meetings

1. During the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Meeting in 19 July 2012 held in Bangkok, Thailand, the SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats have discussed and agreed on the *SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Coordination Mechanism* and identified areas of collaboration to be pursued under the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan. Part of the Coordination Mechanism is to conduct annual regular meeting between SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats.
2. In 19-21 March 2013, during the 47<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference, the SEAMEO Council approved the proposed SEAMEO-ASEAN Coordination Mechanism and the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan.
3. In accordance with the approved SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Coordination Mechanism and with the intention to discuss how to implement the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan, the SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats conducted the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Coordination Meeting on 24 June 2013 in Jakarta, Indonesia.
4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Meeting was aimed at:
  - a) Updating on SEAMEO and ASEAN priorities and activities on education;
  - b) Exploring how education-focused programmes of other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies and its corresponding funding facility can be accessed to and linked up with to support SEAMEO-ASEAN joint initiatives;
  - c) Identifying priority activities or programmes in the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan that could be undertaken in FY 2013/2014-2014/2015, with corresponding funding mechanisms

**Annex 1** presents the Provisional Programme for the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Coordination Meeting.

5. The 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Meeting was participated by key officials and officers of SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats. Deputy Secretary General of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community H E Alicia R Bala headed the delegation of ASEAN Secretariat while Dr Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy of Administration and Communication led the SEAMEO Secretariat team.

#### C. Organizer

1. ASEAN Secretariat

#### D. Results and Key Agreements from the Meeting

1. The following are the results and key agreements from the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Meeting:
  - a) **Updating the SEAMEO-ASEAN Matrix on Priority Areas and Activities on Education**

The two Secretariats provided updates on the recently-completed and ongoing programmes and activities on education of SEAMEO and ASEAN. SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats:

- i. agreed to treat the SEAMEO-ASEAN Matrix on Priority Areas and Activities on Education as a 'living document' that will be updated regularly by the Secretariats. The Matrix provides information on the status of SEAMEO-ASEAN programmes/activities on education and serves as basis for identifying gaps, opportunities and areas where SEAMEO and ASEAN can collaborate or complement each other's initiatives;
- ii. agreed to also include education-focused activities of other relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies. Information on their activities/initiatives could provide SEAMEO Centres with opportunities for potential collaboration with ASEAN bodies.

**Appendix 2** presents the Updated Matrix on SEAMEO-ASEAN Priority Areas and Activities on Education.

#### **b) Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI)**

With the intention to explore the possibility of matching or linking SEAMEO-ASEAN shared goals with related initiatives of relevant ASEAN sectoral bodies and priorities of Dialogue Partners and development partners, representative from the Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI) and Narrowing Development Gaps (NGD) Division of the ASEAN Secretariat was invited to present the strategic framework of IAI and education-focused priorities.

Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI) aims to promote, through concerted efforts, effective cooperation and mutual assistance to narrow the development gap among ASEAN Member States and between ASEAN and the rest of the world. Primarily, IAI is ASEAN's strategic vehicle to help ASEAN's newer member states, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam, accomplish their commitments in building an ASEAN Community by 2015. IAI aims to facilitate the integration of CLMV and sub-regions into the larger ASEAN.

Particularly for education, the IAI Work Plan prescribes actions on training managers and administrators of higher education institutions; establishing vocational or university-based exchange programs, and training programs for specific skills sets needed by CLMV; and providing support in the implementation of ASEAN's Mutual Recognition Agreements.

**Appendix 3** shows the presentation on Initiative on ASEAN Integration (IAI).

During the discussions on IAI, the SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariat:

- i. agree for SEAMEO to explore the possibility of developing a proposal on training package programmes targeting CMLV countries for submission to IAI and NDG Division (ASEAN Secretariat) for possible funding under Japan-ASEAN Integration Fund (JAIF).

The training programme will focus on improving the language competencies of CMLV countries for them to be fully capacitated on project development and report preparations. SEAMEO Secretariat aims to discuss this possibility with SEAMEO Centres during the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2013;

- ii. agree to conduct further discussions on how SEAMEO and ASEAN can assist in assessing how the assistance from Dialogue Partners/donor organizations are contributing to narrowing development gaps in CMLV in terms of education;
- iii. explore possibility of helping Lao PDR develop proposal on Multi-Grade Education (one of the 10 Collaborative Projects on Reaching the Unreached) for submission to ASEAN Secretariat for possible funding under JAIF.

#### **c) European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU SHARE)**

EU Delegation in Jakarta, Indonesia was likewise invited to present a key joint initiative of ASEAN and EU, the European Union Support to Higher Education in ASEAN Region (EU-ASEAN SHARE). EU-SHARE forms part of the EU-ASEAN Multi-Annual Indicative Programme of 2011-2013.

The EU-ASEAN SHARE aims to strengthen regional cooperation, enhance quality, regional competitiveness and internationalization of ASEAN higher education institutions contributing to an ASEAN Community in 2015 and beyond. Specifically, EU-SHARE aims to (i) contribute to harmonisation of ASEAN higher education area through the formulation of ASEAN higher education frameworks taking into account the EU experience and; (ii) support mutual recognition and student mobility among higher education institutions in ASEAN to strengthen people-to-people connectivity.

Under EU-SHARE there are 3 result areas: Policy Dialogue (Result Area 1), ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework and ASEAN Regional Quality Assurance (Result Area 2); and ASEAN Credit Transfer System (ACTS) and ASEAN-EU Credit Transfer System (Result Area 3).

8 Key agreements from the SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats discussions on EU-SHARE:

- i. EU-SHARE will not develop new initiatives but instead support existing regional initiatives related to or geared towards the 3 Result Areas. SEAMEO initiatives and efforts of other international/regional organizations are accounted for in the exhaustive review done by ASEAN and EU on these 3 areas. However, SEAMEO is requested to provide further information on SEAMEO programmes related to these areas;
- ii. Two possible ways SEAMEO and ASEAN can work under the EU-SHARE: (a) SEAMEO programmes as target beneficiaries of EU-SHARE; and (b) SEAMEO participating in the EU-SHARE Call for Proposals.

**Appendix 4** shows the Presentation on EU-SHARE

#### **d) Priority Activities under the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan**

The two Secretariats reviewed the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan and identified under each priority area, concrete activities to be pursued collaboratively in the next two years. The following were the eight (8) activities identified:

1. Initiate outreach and promotion efforts to support ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook;
2. Develop Resource Materials on Southeast Asia Living Culture
3. Initiatives on Basic Education focusing to CLMV [Including Timor Leste]
  - Strengthen collaboration on the implementation of the Collaborative Project on “Reaching the Unreached”, Multi-grade Education
4. Promote of volunteer programs and public private partnership initiatives to promote access to and quality of education
5. Establishing Education Database
6. Initiatives on Higher Education
  - Student mobility including credit transfer system
  - Academic and professional accreditation;
  - Regional qualification standards/framework;
7. Support for policy dialogue on harmonization of higher education
8. Joint Initiatives of SEAMEO with other ASEAN Sectoral Bodies

SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats agreed to identify the next steps for each of the activity and finalize the work plan by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2013. Inputs from the SEAMEO Centres on the work plan will be sought during the CDM 2013.

**Appendix 5** shows the Priority Activities under the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan with corresponding lead proponent and funding source.

#### **d) Other Agreements during the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats’ Meeting**

SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats also discussed and agreed on the following:

- i. Mutual promotion of ASEAN-SEAMEO Strategic Partnership, mechanisms of which will still be discussed between SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats;
- ii. Invitation of SEAMEO to ASEAN meetings related to culture so that SEAMEO can propose initiatives on cultural promotion;
- iii. ASEAN Secretariat will study how they can take part in the SEAMEO College. SEAMEO Secretariat will discuss the potential participation of ASEAN Secretariat on SEAMEO College to the Project Management Committee Meeting to be held on 3 July 2013. Further discussions will be undertaken to concretize the SEAMEO-ASEAN collaboration on this activity;
- iv. ASEAN Secretariat welcomed the invitation of the SEAMEO Secretariat to co-organize the next workshop on SEAMEO Database on Education. Further follow-up discussions will be conducted between SEAMEO and ASEAN Secretariats to confirm this collaboration.
- v. Explore the possibility of ASEAN Secretariat to co-organize the SEAMEO Congress next year. Follow up discussions are needed to further confirm and/or plan for this undertaking;
- vi. ASEAN Secretariat took note of SEAMEO Secretariat's invitation to take part in the signing of MOU between SEAMEO and ASEAN-China Centre in August 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

#### **E. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat**

The following are follow up actions that SEAMEO Secretariat should be taking:

1. Present the results and key agreements from the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Meeting to the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting on 1-3 July 2013. Inputs of the SEAMEO Centres on the work plan would need to be sought;
2. Provide inputs in the Priority Activities in the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan forward to ASEAN Secretariat by 2<sup>nd</sup> week of July 2013;
3. Request a copy on the guidelines on IAI project proposal preparation and application on funding from JAIF;
4. Update the Matrix on SEAMEO-ASEAN Priorities and Activities on Education (based from new inputs from the SEAMEO Centres);
5. Invite ASEAN Secretariat for the MOU signing between SEAMEO Secretariat and ASEAN-China Centre in August 2013;
6. Discuss during the Project Management Committee Meeting on 4 July 2013 the issue of possible role or participation of ASEAN Secretariat in the implementation of SEAMEO College (given the established partnership of SEAMEO and ASEAN);
7. Discuss the kind of support and potential roles of ASEAN Secretariat if they are to co-organize with SEAMEO Secretariat the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase Workshop on SEAMEO Database on Education; and
8. Provide EU and ASEAN Secretariat relevant information on SEAMEO RIHED's AIMS Project and other related programmes on internationalization on higher education;
9. Explore the possibility of co-organizing the 2nd Phase/Workshop for the SEAMEO Database on Education; and
10. Prepare a write up on the SEAMEO website.

**Pictures from the 3<sup>rd</sup> SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats Meeting**





