



Mission Report

ASEAN State of Education Report Workshop

25 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. At the informal ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting (Informal ASED) held on 17 July 2012 in Bali, Indonesia, the previous Secretary-General of ASEAN, Dr Surin Pitsuwan shared that in every sector in ASEAN leaders had the benefit of receiving regular overview of developments and expressed desire that ASEAN can also produce a study on education systems and policies in ASEAN on biennial basis. In the Inaugural Speech of H E Le Luong Minh on 9 January 2013, the current Secretary-General of ASEAN referred to education as the most effective way to move out of the poverty trap and narrowing development gap.
2. In support of the views expressed above, the ASEAN Education Ministers through the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Education (SOM-ED) stated its intention to have a first assessment of education systems and policies in ASEAN in the framework of the strategic objectives and indicators provided by the ASCC Blueprint and the ASEAN Five Year Work Plan on Education. The assessment may then influence the decisions made at both the policy and programme levels by the ASEAN Member States and ASEAN itself.
3. The assessment was proposed to be done in two-way process: (1) produce a 'Study on Education Systems and Policies in ASEAN' which will provide a first ASEAN-wide assessment of education sector in ASEAN, share best practices and point to possible cooperation initiatives with Dialogue Partners relevant to the ASEAN Community Building Process; (2) the study shall serve as a platform on which ASEAN and EU policymakers could engage in a policy dialogue to exchange best practices and exchange information on regional development in education.
4. The will also be a relevant basis to understand the actual situation in each of the ASEAN Member States for the preparation of the Harmonization of Qualification Framework and Quality Assurance, which will be supported by the EU-SHARE project. The study will help ASEAN assess its own educational landscape and allow comparison vis-a-vis EU-adopted benchmarked standards and assessments, within which ASEAN can prepare students success in schools and workplace.
5. The objectives of the workshop are to: (1) inform the ASEAN Member States and relevant international organizations on the joint ASEAN-EU's undertaking of assessment of educational systems and policies of ASEAN Member States; (2) consult the high officials and representatives from the ASEAN Member States and relevant international organizations on the content (data) and structure of the ASEAN State of Education Report (ASOER) which will be the output of the said assessment; and (3) inform the ASEAN Member States of the plans for the assessment process, including the validation at the national levels to be conducted by the research experts engaged by ASEAN and EU.

Appendix 1 presents the Agenda for the ASEAN State of Education Report Workshop and **Appendix 2** shows the Concept Note on the ASOER.

6. The ASOER Workshop was participated by a total of 38 participants, representatives from ASEAN Member Countries, ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN University Network, EU representatives, consultants from Australia and SEAMEO Secretariat representatives.

C. Organizer

1. ASEAN Secretariat with support from EU Jakarta

D. Participation/Role of SEAMEO Secretariat

1. SEAMEO provided technical inputs during the discussions, especially on the aspect of SEAMEO's regional-level efforts related or aligned to the proposed assessment initiative such as the SEAMEO Database on Education. Given SEAMEO's experience on developing regional reports on education, SEAMEO Secretariat likewise provided inputs on relevant aspects of educational data that should be included in the ASOER.
2. SEAMEO Secretariat also expressed willingness to provide additional information it may have that could prove to be useful in the assessment study.

E. Results and Key Agreements from the Meeting

1. Among others, the following are the major key recommendations provided by the representatives from the ASEAN Member States and relevant international organizations on the content and structure of ASEAN State of Education Report Workshop:
 - i. Thailand proposed for ASOER to consider a focus on not only the quantitative aspect but also the quality side of the education system such as the quality of students' learning outcomes and the preparedness of the students;
 - ii. Singapore recommended to highlight the issue on equity of education in the ASOER;
 - iii. Malaysia suggested the inclusion of post-secondary education data in the report;
 - iv. Philippines proposed to include data or indicators that would relate to assistance of private sector in the education system, especially that private sector is playing a bigger role in providing assistance to improving education systems;
 - v. SEAMEO Secretariat recommended that:
 - ASOER should be differentiated with the other regional reports on education such as the regular reports being produced on Education for All (EFA) and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). ASOER should reflect the uniqueness of the Southeast Asian countries' approach in education system. It was recommended that a substantial explanation should be provided in the report as to who ASOER differ from UNESCO UIS reports and others;
 - The report should also include data on informal and non-formal education since a number of Southeast Asian countries are implementing informal/non-formal mode of learning system; and
 - Include indicators which reflect the goals of ASCC Blueprint such as raising ASEAN awareness and the pursuit of unity among ASEAN.
2. The EU-ASEAN research experts who will undertake the assessment study and the representatives from ASEAN Member States, AUN and SEAMEO Secretariats agreed on tentative schedules for the validation process/consultation visits, which will be undertaken in the month of July 2013 and the 2nd phase of the ASOER consultation workshop which will be held in 12 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

F. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat

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

1. Prepare relevant documents/information for the validation process/consultation visit to SEAMEO Secretariat of the ASEAN-EU research expert in 10 July 2013. The SEAMEO Secretariat Director (and Directorate) will have the opportunity to provide valuable inputs to the development of ASOER; and
2. Since ASOER is proposed to be done biennially, discuss how SEAMEO can assist ASEAN Secretariat in the development/implementation of the ASOER through SEAMEO's initiative SEAMEO Database in Education.
3. Discuss the possibility of co-hosting with ASEAN Secretariat the 2nd Phase of the Consultation Workshop on ASOER to be held in 12 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand.

Pictures from the ASEAN State of Education Report Workshop



