



Mission Report

The Second Workshop on the ASEAN State of Education Report 12 September 2013, S31 Hotel, Bangkok Thailand

A. SEAMEO Secretariat Official and Staff Member on Mission:

1. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

B. Background and Objectives of the Meetings

1. In 25 June 2013, ASEAN Secretariat with the support of EU conducted the **ASEAN State of Education Report (ASOER) Workshop** in Jakarta, Indonesia. The objectives of the workshop were 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. 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.
2. Following the workshop, the two key experts engaged by ASEAN Secretariat and EU proceeded to conduct in-country consultations with senior government officials across the ASEAN member countries.
3. A draft report was prepared from the country consultations and was presented during the **Second Workshop on the ASEAN State of Education Report** held in 12 September 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand. Senior government officials from each of the ASEAN member countries were invited to provide final inputs to the draft ASOER with the two key experts tasked to finalize the report after the second workshop. SEAMEO and AUN were also invited to the workshop but were asked to provide inputs to the ASOER even prior to the workshop. [Annex 1](#) presents the Provisional Agenda for the Second Workshop on the ASEAN State of Education Report. [Appendix 2](#) presents the draft of the ASOER as of 11 September 2013.

C. Organizer

1. ASEAN Secretariat with support from EU Jakarta

D. Participation/Role of SEAMEO Secretariat

1. SEAMEO provided recommendations and technical inputs in the ASOER prior to the workshop. During the group discussions, SEAMEO ensured that inputs were incorporated and provided additional inputs especially on the aspect of SEAMEO's over-all efforts on education.
2. The ASEAN Secretariat and the Chair of the Meeting, Indonesia, have commended SEAMEO's contributions to the development of the ASOER.

E. Results and Key Agreements from the Meeting

1. During the 2nd ASOER Workshop, ASEAN Secretariat and the research experts engaged for the report writing have:
 - a. provided progress on the status of the development of the ASOER and the timeline for its finalization and publication;
 - b. validated the latest draft of the report which incorporated the inputs/recommendations from ASEAN Member States, SEAMEO and AUN;
2. The research experts brought up difficulties and issues in relation to the development of the report such as non-availability of education data in some of the ASEAN countries and non-availability of relevant resources on progress on education in ASEAN;
3. Among others, the latest draft of the ASOER, which incorporated inputs from the countries, SEAMEO and AUN, included the following significant sections which were not part of the initial write-up of the report:
 - a. An overview of the progress in terms of ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Scorecard and the state of education in ASEAN vis-à-vis the priorities set in the ASEAN Five Year Work Plan;
 - b. Process of the development of the report and descriptions of consultations made in the ASEAN states;
 - c. Elaboration on the work of SEAMEO on education, including its contributions to Priority 3 of the ASEAN 5 Year Development Plan, Cross-border Mobility and Internationalization of Education;
 - d. Discussion on the need for adoption of policies on the teaching of ASEAN languages at that national level;
4. The 2nd ASOER Workshop has provided opportunity for discussions among the ASEAN States, ASEAN and SEAMEO on possible focus for the next two years for ASEAN in terms of education. Among others, the following were identified as future issues for ASEAN:
 - a. Skills-job mismatch
 - b. Qualifications framework
 - c. Mobility and learning from best practices
 - d. Reaching the unreached learners
5. SEAMEO informed the meeting of its plan to conduct a series of activities for the development of education agenda post-2015 which could be then serve as the basis for priority-setting, policy and programme development on education in Southeast Asia.
6. One very important observation of the research experts is that in the discussions with the ASEAN Member States there was no indication on ASEAN's view as to its readiness to go towards the direction of what EU has undertaken with its Bologna Process.
7. Publication of the ASOER is targeted to be done in October to November 2013. ASEAN Secretariat is looking into possible models for the printing of the report, how to present it best but the priority is to finalize the content of the draft to be endorsed to SOM-ED and ASED. ASEAN Secretariat will explore with the SOM-ED Chair, Indonesia as to the best platform to launch the ASOER publication. One possible option is in SOM-ED in November 2013; other option could be Indonesia and ASEAN Secretariat's.
8. The ASEAN Member States were requested to submit additional inputs to the ASOER by 14 September 2013. Upon finalization of the ASOER, endorsement of the ASOER shall be sought from the ASEAN Member States for submission to ASCC Council for consideration and approval.

F. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat

1. Submit additional inputs (if any) on the ASOER to the ASEAN Secretariat until 14 September 2013.