



## Mission Report

### The 6<sup>TH</sup> China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) and Meeting with Guangxi Normal University 16-20 September 2013, Guiyang, Guizhou and Guilin, Guangxi, PRC

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

1. Dr Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMEO Secretariat Director
2. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

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

1. In 17-22 September 2012, SEAMEO delegation composed of the SEAMEO Secretariat and three SEAMEO Regional Centres (SEAMEO RIHED, SEAMEO VOCTECH and SEAMEO TROPED Network) was invited by ACC to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) in Guiyang, Guizhou Province, PRC, organized by the Ministry of Education, China and the Guizhou Provincial Department of Education (GPDE). CAECW is an annual platform to promote cooperation between ASEAN countries and the People's Republic of China.
2. During the 35<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in November 2012, SEAMEO Secretariat, ACC and Guizhou Provincial Department of Education (GPDE) conducted discussions on the proposed participation of SEAMEO to the 6<sup>th</sup> China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week (CAECW) to be held on 16-20 September 2013 in Guiyang, China. Discussions on this proposed collaboration were continued between ACC and SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres during a side meeting in the 47<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference. SEAMEO and ACC decided to create a joint committee for the preparation on the CAECW and to conduct a preparatory meeting in May 2013.
3. In 23-24 May 2013, the SEAMEO-ACC-GPDE Joint Meeting for CAECW, the three organizations: (a) discussed the theme, design and activities of the CAECW, the roles and responsibilities of SEAMEO, proposed activities of SEAMEO and ACC for CAECW and (b) identified possible areas of collaboration between SEAMEO, ACC with GPDE apart from CAECW;
4. This year's theme of CAECW is *Pragmatic Cooperation, Harmonious Development and Mutual Prosperity* which aims to highlight the importance of establishing mutually-beneficial collaborations for the development and growth of Southeast Asia and China. [Appendix 1](#) presents the Programme for the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW.

#### C. Organizer

1. The 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW was organized by the Chinese Ministry of Education and GPDE with ACC and SEAMEO as partners and with variety of symposium and activities hosted by different universities and education institutions in Guiyang, Guizhou, PRC.

#### D. Participation/Role of SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres

1. A total of twenty (20) officials from ten (10) SEAMEO Centres and the SEAMEO Secretariat participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW as speakers/presenters and as participants in the various symposium and activities organized by the participating Chinese universities

and education institutions. [Appendix 2](#) presents the SEAMEO Centres which participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW.

2. SEAMEO also participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW exhibition.
3. SEAMEO Secretariat also conducted meeting with Guangxi Normal University for the proposed development of the Education Resource Guide and planning for other collaborative activities.

## **E. Results and Key Agreements from the Meeting**

### **6<sup>th</sup> CAECW**

1. SEAMEO's participation to the CAECW is aimed at providing SEAMEO a regular platform to promote its work on education, science and culture and showcase the expertise of SEAMEO Centres in China. With CAECW, SEAMEO intends to establish collaborations and partnerships with Chinese education institutions which share SEAMEO's goal of enhancing human resource competitiveness in Southeast Asia and beyond. Moreover, SEAMEO's participation to CAECW provided SEAMEO opportunity to enhance its international visibility.
2. SEAMEO as co-organizer of the event, a session, ***China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Information Exchange Session***, was made part of the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW specifically for SEAMEO to introduce the Organization to Chinese and ASEAN participants, as well as to provide a brief background on the partnership between SEAMEO, GPDE and the ASEAN-China Centre (ACC). In the said session, SEAMEO Secretariat Director presented a brief background on SEAMEO through a multi-media presentation and SEAMEO TROPED Network Coordinator and Secretary General Prof Dr Pratap Singhasivanon presented SEAMEO's work on education, science and culture. [Appendix 3](#) presents the Programme for the China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Information Exchange Session.
3. The 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW includes a number of parallel symposium and seminars. Officials of SEAMEO Centres and SEAMEO Secretariat have served as speakers and as participants in activities relevant to their respective Centres' mandates and priorities. [Appendix 4](#) shows the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW Activities and Participating SEAMEO Centres.
4. During the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW, SEAMEO, through the SEAMEO Secretariat, signed a Letter of Agreement (LOA) with ACC and GPDE on organizing the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW. The LOA falls under the cooperation framework of SEAMEO-ACC Memorandum of Understanding. [Appendix 5](#) shows the scanned copy of the signed LOA. The LOA covered the convening of this year's CAECW but with provision of co-organizing with ACC and GPDE future CAECWs.
5. SEAMEO Secretariat and ACC also conducted a technical meeting on initial ideas the two Organizations can propose to MOE China and GPDE for the conduct of the next CAECW (7<sup>th</sup> CAECW in 2014). A coordination meeting between SEAMEO, ACC and GPDE was initially scheduled to be held in January in 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand. The proposed coordination meeting will provide opportunity for the three Organizations to plan for the 7<sup>th</sup> CAECW and discuss other possible collaborative activities apart from the CAECW.

### **Meeting with Guangxi Normal University**

6. In Guilin, Guangxi, SEAMEO Secretariat conducted meeting with Guangxi Normal University (GNU) and ACC on the proposed development of the Education Resource Guide. The Resource Guide, initially discussed between SEAMEO, ACC and the National Institute for Education Sciences of MOE China in May 2012 is aimed to serve as a resource tool to: (a) inform educational policymakers, academics and practitioners on the education systems and priorities of SEAMEO Member Countries and China; and (b) promote education exchange and cooperation in the region as well as collaboration between SEAMEO Member Countries and China. [Appendix 6](#) presents the Concept

Paper on the Resource Guide on Education in SEAMEO Member Countries and China. The said program concept was used as reference for discussion with GNU.

7. On the development of the Education Resource Guide, SEAMEO Secretariat, ACC and GNU discussed and agreed to:
  - a. Establish a coordinating team comprising of representatives from SEAMEO Secretariat, ACC and GNU which would be tasked to coordinate the preparation and undertaking of the initiative;
  - b. ACC and SEAMEO Secretariat to prepare a program concept (based on the results of the SEAMEO-ACC-GNU discussions) and work plan on the development of the Education Resource Guide for inputs of GNU;
  - c. Development of the resource guide shall be done in one year with publication completed by November 2014.
  - d. Experts from SEAMEO Member Countries and China will form part of the technical team who will be developing the resource guide. A report framework shall be developed and validated with experts prior to the development of the resource guide.
  - e. GNU shall host the convening of the experts for the development of the resource guide;
  - f. First publication of the resource guide will be in English;
8. Work plan for the development of the Education Resource Guide will form part of a working paper on updates on SEAMEO-ACC collaboration for presentation to the 36<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in November 2013.
9. SEAMEO, ACC and GNU also discussed on the:
  - a. Possibility of Chinese students of GNU taking internship in SEAMEO Secretariat and staff exchange;
  - b. GNU's possible participation to the SEAMEO Congress to be held in October 2014;
  - c. GNU potentially organizing with SEAMEO and ACC an education conference which will convene education experts from Southeast Asia and China for discussion and sharing of experiences on a specified theme.

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

1. Coordinate with ACC and GNU on the development of program concept (including the report framework) and work plan for the development of the Education Resource Guide;
2. Coordinate with ACC on the preparation of program concept and implementation plan for collaborative activities identified in the SEAMEO-ACC Joint Work Plan. Plans for implementation of SEAMEO-ACC activities will form part of a working paper on updates on the SEAMEO-ACC collaboration to be presented in the 36<sup>th</sup> HOM in November 2013. The working paper will also include report on SEAMEO's participation to the 6<sup>th</sup> CAECW.
3. Coordinate with AC and GPDE for the conduct of the SEAMEO-ACC-GPDE coordination meeting to be held in January 2014.