



## Mission Report

### Regional Conference on EiE and Disaster Preparedness (Project 10) “Ensuring Education Continuum in Emergencies”

10-12 December 2013, Manila, Philippines

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

1. Dr Handoko, Deputy Director for Programmes and Development (DDPD)
2. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

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

1. Department of Education has been tasked to lead two projects under the SEAMEO-UNESCO-ASEAN Ten Collaborative Projects: Tracking Students at Risk of Dropping Out (Project 2) and the Education in Emergencies and Disaster Preparedness (Project 10).
2. In July 2013, Department of Education conducted a planning session in Manila, Philippines to develop the design and programme for the Regional Conference on EiE and Disaster Preparedness. SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO TROPED Network and SEAMEO INNOTECH participated in the planning session and provided technical inputs to the Conference design.
3. In 10-12 December 2013, Department of Education held the Regional Conference on EiE and Disaster Preparedness at the Heritage Hotel, Manila, Philippines. The Conference was held in collaboration with SEAMEO Secretariat, UNICEF Philippines, Save the Children, UNESCO and SEAMEO INNOTECH. [Annex 1](#) presents the Programme of the Regional Conference on EiE and Disaster Preparedness.
4. The Regional Conference has been participated by representatives from SEAMEO Member Countries Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Singapore and regional/international organizations such as UNESCO, Save the Children Australia, INEE, Switzerland, UNICEF, Save the Children, and SEAMEO INNOTECH. Other related Philippine agencies such as Department of Health, TESDA, Department of Foreign Affairs, CHED and NGOs Balay Rehabilitation Centre and Education Network were also represented.

#### C. Organizer

1. Department of Education, Philippines
2. Partners: SEAMEO Secretariat, Save the Children, UNICEF, UNESCO

#### D. Participation of SEAMEO Secretariat

1. Provided technical inputs to Department of Education during the development and execution of the Regional Conference
2. DDPD provided the context of the Conference through his Opening Address; and
3. Served as facilitator in the workshop sessions

#### E. Highlights of the Meeting

1. Day 1 of the Conference includes sessions provide an overview of global, regional, and national level efforts on ensuring continued and quality access to quality education for children, specifically those who are most vulnerable. The following provides brief description of the session:

*Global Action Plan on ESD, Mr Danilo Padilla, UNESCO*

- Five actions to promote ESD beyond the Decade of Education for Sustainable Development; aimed towards basically to increase presence of ESD internationally and nationally

*Ten Collaborative Projects on Reaching the Unreached, Ms Raquel Castillo, Education Network*

- is a multi-country collaborations aimed towards attaining the EFA goals; in the perspective of an EFA partner- this initiative highlighting the need to focus on our vulnerable learners;

*Making it Work for Education in Emergencies, Mr Edwin Horca, Save the Children*

- Provides the trends in terms of frequency, intensity and impacts of calamities/disasters and consequences for children. Highlights the role of education as a response to calamities; definition of EiE and the minimum standards for education preparedness, response and recovery;

*Global Efforts of INEE, Mr Peter Transburg, INEE*

- Places the importance of providing greater focus on EiE and the work of INEE is doing on EiE globally;

*Education under Attack: Learning Institutions as Zones of Peace (LIZOP), Mr Tabudlong, Balay Rehabilitation Centre*

- Presents the LIZOP process and recommendations on how LIZOP can be replicated or scaled up

*Safe School Initiatives by ADMER, Ms Marla Petal, Save the Children*

- Presents global, regional and country mechanisms on safe school practices including the Comprehensive School Safety Framework;

*Toolkit on Building Resilient School Communities, Ms Yolanda delas Alas, SEAMEO INNOTECH*

- Toolkit, which is undergoing development, aims to provide a comprehensive reference materials on EiE

*Excellence in Leading Education in Emergency Situations, Dr Lilibeth Taa, SEAMEO INNOTECH*

- Training programme of SEAMEO INNOTECH for school heads in Southeast Asia which provides a walk-through on planning, integrating, managing DRR and recovering from disaster;

*Support to EiE in the Philippines, Ms Maria Lourdes De Vera-Mateo, UNICEF Philippines*

- Provides the imperatives for EiE, specifically the need to develop the cognitive and social aspects of children and the threats triggered by natural disasters and armed conflict. Describes the Philippines' *Education Strategic Response Framework*

2. Day 2 of the Conference (11 December 2013) highlighted the country presentations of Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore and Philippines. The presentations were focused on national policies and strategies on DRRM and EiE, challenges, issues in implementation and plans to move forward EiE/DRRM.

- *Cambodia* presented the national structure on DRM – the National Committee for Disaster Management (NCDM), which is tasked to develop, coordinate and management of DRRM. Cambodia also presented their efforts on integrating DRRM/EiE in their national plans and policies;
- *Indonesia* presented a comprehensive mapping of initiatives of various national agencies and NGOs on EiE and DRRM
- *Lao PDR* presented an overview of the hazards and disasters in Lao PDR and their policies and strategies to address and mitigate the impact of disasters to their learners. Lao PDR also presented their efforts on mainstreaming DRR in the education system;
- *Malaysia* presented its initiative - School Disaster Preparedness Framework, which aims to educate about disaster and prepare teachers and students. Malaysia presented also challenges in the DRRM/EiE implementation and their plans to move forward.

- *Myanmar's* presentation highlighted its creation of the Disaster Preparedness and Response in Education Working Group (DPRE), which was established to reduce risk and vulnerability to disasters; and DPRE's initiatives on DRRM. Among others, Myanmar cited as challenges community participation and M&E as being weak and budget for DRRM and EiE not enough.
  - *Singapore*, not being prone to natural calamities, focused its presentation on the impact of health-related outbreaks and how the Ministry of Education (MOE) Singapore has been addressing these issues in what they called as "Whole of Government Approach" and within MOE as "Whole of MOE Approach". Singapore highlighted success factors such as forward-looking planning, committed and competent peoples, customer-centric systems and processes and close partnership with schools.
  - *Philippines* presented the country's geographical profile and vulnerability to climate change and impact of disasters including the cost to public basic education services. Philippines gave an overview of national policies and strategies on DRRM/EiE which includes the establishment of DRRM Office in the Department of Education, the DRRM in Education Framework and various national disaster preparedness programmes. Philippines cited, as challenges emerging hazards becoming more massive and more frequent, policy development overtaken by emergency response, need for standardized training and materials and widespread information.
3. Also on the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the Conference, a school visit was organized to provide participants with an opportunity to visit an elementary school, Commonwealth Elementary School, a Gawad Kalasag awardee, recognized for its excellence on strengthening the school's resistance and adaptive capacities to disaster risks.
  4. Day 3 of the Conference, 12 December 2013, focused on group discussions on the following three key topics:
    - Gaps/Challenges in EiE and DRRM Implementation at the National and Regional Level
    - Recommendations on Regional Strategies and Cooperation Mechanisms to Improve Regional Capacity on EiE and DRRM
    - Recommendations on Post-2015 EiE and DRRM Agenda
  5. The outputs of the workshop are recommendations on: (1) *Regional Strategies and Cooperation Mechanisms to Improve the Regional Capacity on EiE and DRRM*; and (2) *Post-2015 Agenda on EiE and DRRM for Southeast Asia*.

[Annex 2](#) presents the Synthesis of the Recommendations from the Regional Conference on EiE and Disaster Preparedness.

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

1. Prepare a report on the results from the Regional Conference and conduct internal discussion to identify appropriate follow up actions to respond to the Regional Conference' recommendations on:
  - a. Regional Strategies and Cooperation Mechanisms to Improve the Regional Capacity on EiE and DRRM; and
  - b. Post-2015 Agenda on EiE and DRRM for Southeast Asia