



Mission Report

8th ASEAN SOM-ED Meeting, 4th ASEAN SOM-ED +3 and 2nd EAS SOM-ED

20-21 February 2014, The Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

A. SEAMEO Official and Staff Member on Mission:

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

B. Background and Objectives of the Meetings

1. The 8th ASEAN-SOM-ED, ASEAN SOM-ED + 3 and EAS Cooperation Meetings were organized back to back in 20-21 February 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand.
2. The agenda of the 8th SOM-ED Meeting were: a) consideration of decisions of other ASEAN Meetings relevant to education since the 7th SOM-ED on 29 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand; b) follow up to the 7th SOM-ED agenda on Policy Brief titled ASEAN Single Window: Strengthening our Education Collaboration; and ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook; c) status of ASEAN projects/activities; d) ASEAN cooperation on education with Dialogue Partners (ASEAN +3, EAS and ASEAN-EU); e) ASEAN Cooperation with the Government of Hungary; f) Updates on AUN; f) Framework Agreement on Cooperation between ASEAN and UNESCO; and lastly g) Review of Arrangements on ASEAN Meetings.
3. The agenda for the SOM-ED + 3 Meeting included the a) consideration of decisions of other ASEAN Meetings relevant to education since the 3rd SOM-ED + 3 held in 29 November 2013 in Bangkok, Thailand; and b) TOR of the APT Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN Plus 3 Countries; and c) Status of Programmes/Actions Under the ASEAN + 3 Plan of Action on Education (2010-2017).
4. The EAS agenda are: a) decisions relevant to education at the 8th EAS; b) update on the implementation of the 13 Collaborative Projects; c) Australia's presentation on its implementation of projects; d) Australia and ROK presentation on the EAS TVET Provider Network; e) Feasibility Study for the EAS-Regional Facility for Education Quality Assessment Project (RFEQA); and f) EAS TVET QAF Volume II Paper.
5. The Participants of the Meetings are High Officials from ASEAN Member States and Dialogue Partners from the ASEAN + 3 and EAS.

C. Organizer

1. ASEAN Secretariat

D. Results and Key Agreements from the Meeting

8th ASEAN SOM-ED

1. In the 8th SOM-ED, the ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on the following relevant information and key agreements on ASEAN-related meetings on Education:

- a. Completion of ASEAN State of Education Report, which will be disseminated in the forthcoming ASER in September 2014. The ASER provides an overview of developments in education sector in ASEAN;
 - b. Indonesia provided information in the future direction of ASEAN Primary School Sport Olympiad (APSSO) including guidelines on hosting of APSSO on a rotation basis;
 - c. Ongoing implementation of the ASEAN Student Exchange Programme;
 - d. Ongoing, completed and proposed cross-cultural projects relevant to education sector including progress in the development of the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework
 - e. The 2nd EAS Education Ministers Meeting will be held in September 2014 in Lao PDR; and the EAS Education Plan of Action (2011-2015), adopted at the 1st EAS Education Ministers Meeting in July 2012 in Jakarta, is presently being implemented.
2. ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting about the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan of which projects/initiatives are responsive with the Indonesia's Policy Brief on ASEAN Single Window: Strengthening Our Collaborations.
 3. Lao PDR requested clarification from SEAMEO Secretariat on a proposed initiative on Multi-grade Education which is one of the SEAMEO-ASEAN collaborative activities under SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan. SEAMEO Secretariat clarified that the proposal on Capacity Building for Multi-grade Education for Lao has not yet been prepared and that SEAMEO Secretariat will coordinate with Lao PDR on the development of the proposal.
 4. Selected ASEAN Member States (AMS) informed the Meetings on the country-level efforts to promote and utilize the ASEAN Curriculum Sourcebook.
 5. AUN reported on AUN accomplishments. AMS raised queries on the mandates of AUN, decision and reporting structure and its relationship to ASEAN Secretariat. The Meeting proposed for ASEAN Secretariat and AUN to establish a working group that would put together information/report that would address the concerns raised in the Meeting.
 6. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the meeting ongoing projects/activities with ASEAN Dialogue Partners (ASEAN +3, ASEAN-EU Share and the EAS);
 7. The ASEAN Secretariat also informed the meeting of the proposed ASEAN Cooperation with Hungary and the reiteration and strengthening of the ASEAN-UNESCO collaboration (MOU for renewal)
 8. ASEAN Secretariat presented initial proposal on revision on arrangements of ASEAN Meetings including proposed schemes in terms of timing and hosting of SOM-ED, SOM-ED +3 and EAS Meetings.

4th ASEAN SOM-ED +3

1. The ASEAN Secretariat briefed the Meeting on decisions of other ASEAN Meetings relevant to education including:
 - a. The Final Report of the Mid-Term Review of the Implementation of the ASCC Blueprint has been adopted by the ASEAN Leaders. The Report complements the Review on the ASCC Scorecard initiated by the ASEAN Secretariat and the National Assessments by the ASEAN Development Fund;
 - b. The ASEAN Leaders agree to designate the year 2014 as the ASEAN-China Cultural Exchange Year". China will provide 15,000 government scholarships to young students from ASEAN Member States.
 - c. The 8th EAS Summit, the Leaders reiterated the importance of education cooperation and to further strengthen HRD in the region.
2. Japan presented the highlights of the First Meeting of the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Working Group on Mobility of Higher Education and Ensuring Quality Assurance of Higher Education among ASEAN + 3 Countries which was held in Japan in December 2013. Japan further presented the TOR of the APT Working Group and proposed plans for the Second Meeting of the APT Working Group in

October 2014 in Bali, Indonesia. Korea and China gave feedback/inputs on the said TOR, which was already adopted by the AMS.

3. Japan informed the Meeting of their initiatives with ASEAN countries including the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award and the AIMS Project.
4. Korea, Japan and China presented updates on the progress of education cooperation between ASEAN and their respective governments.
5. AMS provided brief information on the countries' respective activities related to programmes under the ASEAN +3 Plan of Action on Education including those related to the development of national quality assurance framework (The Philippines) and the conduct of youth camp (Thailand).
6. Lao PDR informed the Meeting of the scheduled 8th ASED Meeting on 9-12 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR.

2nd EAS

1. ASEAN Secretariat provided information on decisions made at the 8th EAS Summit including: a) revival of Nalanda University; b) Singapore and China's co-organization of "Bilingualism – Policy and Practice" on 13-14 September 2013 in Singapore; and c) Brunei Darussalam's offer of scholarships for an 18-month Master of Public Policy and Management (MPPM) programme which commenced in December 2013.
2. Japan informed the Meeting of their initiatives with ASEAN countries including the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award and the AIMS Project.
3. Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan, as lead countries of some of the 13 Collaborative Projects, provided information on the results and plans for the implementation of the 13 Collaborative Projects;
4. Third EAS SOM-ED Meeting to be held immediately prior to the 3rd EAS EMM and Prep-SOM, Prep-SOM +3 to be held before the 8th ASED Meeting. Date of meetings is 9-12 September 2014 in Lao PDR.

E. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat

The SEAMEO Secretariat is proposed to undertake the following follow-up actions:

1. Revise/re-word the Next Steps section of the Priority Activities in the SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Joint Work Plan (FY 2013/2014/2014/2015):

<p>Initiatives on Basic Education focusing to CLMV [Including Timor Leste]</p> <p>Strengthen collaboration on the implementation of the Collaborative Project on "Reaching the Unreached", Multi-grade Education</p>	<p>To narrow the educational development divides within the region and enhance its competitiveness and resiliency; and using ICT to introduce the new pedagogy method.</p>	<p>SEAMEO</p>	<p>ASEAN Secretariat/IAI</p>	<p>SEAMEO Secretariat to assist Lao PDR to develop project proposal on the implementation of the Multi-grade Education for submission to ASEAN Secretariat IAI-NDG Division for funding consideration under the JAIF funding facility.</p> <p>SOM-ED Lao PDR is expected to send the project proposal to the ASEAN Secretariat for SOM-ED review and ad referendum endorsement, as well as IAI Task Force's approval prior to the final approval by Japan.</p> <p>SEAMEO Secretariat will consult and work with Lao PDR on the proposed development of project proposal on Multi-Grade Education that could be submitted for possible funding support under IAI/JAIF.</p> <p>The SEAMEO Secretariat will officially communicate to Lao PDR on this proposed development of a project proposal on Multi-Grade Education.</p>
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Appendix 1 presents the revised Priority Activities in the SEAMEO-ASEAN Secretariats' Joint Work Plan (FY 2013/2014/2014/2015)

SEAMEO Secretariat to confer with Ms Chantavone (through Ms Noumksam of the International Relation Office) on the above proposed re-wording. Upon confirmation with Ms Chantavone, SEAMEO Secretariat will officially communicate with Lao PDR on the proposed development of project proposal on Multigrade Education.

2. Communicate officially to Lao PDR the proposed development of the project proposal on Multi-Grade Education and request confirmation and focal person for SEAMEO Secretariat to coordinate with. In addition, coordinate with ASEAN Secretariat for the adoption of the revision on this specific item in the SEAMEO-ASEAN Joint Work Plan;