

Session 1 Workshop Summary **Recommendations on the Establishment of the SEAMEO-China Education Research Network**

Rationale/Significance/Distinction of the Education Research Network

- Crafting of education agenda for SEA and China after 2015
- Education Network to work towards steering the course of policy reforms in the 12 countries (expanding the objective of the Network to establish the Network's uniqueness;
- A network of officially-designated national education research institutions from the 12 countries (should be reflected in the Network's TOR to highlight this distinction from other networks of universities and individual researchers)

Objectives/Purpose of the Education Network

- Establish content and organizational connectivity among member countries in policy formulation based on education policy research
- Look into how the education research institutions under the education network framework can work together with other ASEAN education institutions/organizations
- Contribute to the development of post-2015 agenda in Southeast Asia and agenda, Reaching the Unreached Project
- Bring to focus, enhance key programs that seek to harmonize education systems in the region;
- Promote capacity building and facilitate cultural and intellectual exchanges
- Sharing of experiences and expertise

Coordination and Implementation Mechanisms

- Network secretariat (SEAMEO, NIES and ACC) whose tasks is to hold a meeting, set up annual research agenda and formulate policies which are of common interest to the members
- Communication and coordination among education network members to be carried out through email
- TOR, coordination mechanisms and strategies should be spelled out clearly
- Establish agreement among member institutions of the network
- Annual conference should be organized, during the education week
- A guiding framework that the Network can produce and convince the MOEs of the countries

Research Agenda

- Focus on themes/priorities of the countries consisting of: a) access, b) quality, c) relevance, and d) management
- Include futuristic studies on education issues

Memberships

- Identify clearly roles of the members and the education research institutions; right representation from the countries so that information for sharing would be reliable
- In the future, widen the Network's membership to the network (i.e. OECD countries)

- Consider establishing network to network relationship in the future

Possible Activities of the Education Research Network

- Conduct of joint research
- Faculty and student exchanges
- Joint publication
- Sharing of best practices among the countries
- Establish a database, **website**, or online repository of education research studies
- Conduct research studies that focus on key education programs such as ARQF
- Conduct of evaluation of education reforms
- Conduct of cross-country comparison of education reforms
- Activities that aim to promote better understanding among various research field
- Futuristic studies
- *Strategy: start with a small project, realistic and implementable*

Sustainability

- SEAMEO mechanism will ensure sustainability of the Network (approval and commitment of the SEAMEO Member Countries through the SEAMEO Council)
- Timeline for the Network's activities should be established
- Financial sustainability: cost-sharing basis

Next Steps

1. Finalize TOR of the Network as soon as possible, with inputs from the experts from the countries, which will include:
 - Vision, Mission, Goals, Strategies and Contributions of the Network;
 - Importantly the larger objective of the Network should be identified and the strategic interests of the Network to the countries;
 - Thematic focus of the Network
 - Timeline for the Network's identified activities
2. Seek commitment and endorsement through SEAMEO and ACC decision mechanisms

Key Issues

- Ownership of the network (i.e. SEAMEO? ACC? NIES?)
- How to align the Education Network with the efforts of UNESCO?
- Website/Database: Hosting and maintenance, content management, editorial policy, budget for operations and personnel