



Mission Report

Consultative Meeting on Establishment of SEAMEO-China Education Research Network and the Development of Guidebook on Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China

5-6 June 2014, Beijing Convention Centre, Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

A. SEAMEO Official and Staff Member on Mission:

1. Dr Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMEO Secretariat Director
2. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I
3. Ms Pimratchada Patanasuthikul, Executive Secretary

B. Background and Objectives of the Meetings

1. During the 2nd SEAMEO-ACC Coordination Meeting in 17 February 2014 in Bangkok, Thailand, SEAMEO Secretariat and ASEAN-China Centre has discussed implementation of initiatives identified under the SEAMEO-ACC Joint Work Plan. One of these initiatives is the proposed Establishment of the SEAMEO-China Education Research Network and the Development of the Guidebook on Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China.
2. With the key officials from National Institute for Education Sciences (NIES), Ministry of Education China, SEAMEO and ACC discussed the details of the proposed initiatives and prepared work plan for the development of the Guidebook. SEAMEO, ACC and NIES agreed to request nomination for representations from education research institutions from SEAMEO Member Countries and China and to conduct a consultative meeting to seek their recommendations about the proposed two initiatives.
3. In 5-6 June 2014, SEAMEO Secretariat, ACC and NIES jointly organized the *Consultative Meeting on Establishment of SEAMEO-China Education Research Network and the Development of Guidebook on Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China* in Beijing Convention Center, Beijing, PRC. The meeting was aimed at seeking inputs and recommendations on:
 - a) Establishment of the Education Research Network (Terms of Reference including objectives, coordination mechanisms, membership, Education Research activities etc);
 - b) Development of the Guidebook (framework of the Guidebook, roles/responsibilities of authors/writers from the education research institutions, timeline, etc)

[Appendix 1](#) presents the Programme for the activity

4. The activity was participated by official representations from nominated education research institutions from SEAMEO Member Countries, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Timor Leste. NIES represents China. Myanmar and Vietnam were unable to be represented at this time but have sent nomination on official representation to the Education Network.
5. School visits were conducted during the second day of the activity, 6 June 2014. The school visits were conducted to provide the SEAMEO Member Countries with better understanding of the education system of China and reforms initiated at the school-level.

C. Organizer

1. The activity is jointly co-organized by SEAMEO, ACC and NIES under the SEAMEO-ACC Cooperation Framework;

D. Highlights and Agreements from the Meeting

1. SEAMEO Secretariat presented brief introduction about the proposed establishment of the education research network while NIES provided proposed models for the development of the Guidebook.
2. Participants from the SEAMEO Member Countries and China presented country reports on a) brief Introduction on the research institutions represented by the participants; b) Membership to existing education research networks; and c) their views and recommendations on the Establishment of SEAMEO-China Education Research Networks.
3. Co-chaired by ACC and NIES, SEAMEO Member Countries and China presented their views on the establishment of the Education Network. Among others, the countries recognized the need for establishment of the network and provided inputs in terms of making network distinct from other education networks and purposes/objectives; as well as suggestions in terms of coordination mechanisms, membership, research agenda and potential activities of the education network. The SEAMEO-China Education Research Network will be the only education network with membership coming from national education research institutions, officially designated by the Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries.

[Appendix 2](#) presents the Workshop Summary on Session 1: Establishment of SEAMEO-China Education Research Network

4. NIES facilitated the discussions on the models and framework for the development of the Guidebook on the Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China. Among others, the Meeting agreed that the Guidebook should be geared towards enhancing mutual understanding, mutual learning and also mutual reinforcement of education system through sharing of systemic and updated knowledge and information and identifying both similarities and differences of on education systems and reforms in SEA and China.

[Appendix 3](#) presents the Workshop Summary on the Session 2: Development of Guidebook on the Education Systems and Reforms in Southeast Asia and China

5. The Guidebook will be the first activity of the Education Network. A second meeting in September 2014 in China is proposed to be conducted to officially form the education network and to discuss the first draft of the Guidebook. It was agreed that the representatives who attended the Consultative Meeting will serve as focal points for the education network and the development of the guidebook. However, focal points may nominate authors or members for the editorial board.
6. SEAMEO Secretariat chaired the last session on synthesis and summary of agreements from the meeting. The countries were requested to give further feedback/recommendations on both initiatives and were requested to communicate the agreements of the Consultative Meeting to their respective Ministries of Education. SEAMEO Secretariat likewise agreed to convey the highlights and agreements from the meeting to Myanmar and Vietnam.

E. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat

1. Follow up with Myanmar and Vietnam on their official representation to the Education Research Network and to the development of the Guidebook;
2. Coordinate with ACC and NIES on:
 - a) Finalization of the Meeting's Workshop Summary and disseminate report to SEAMEO Member Countries, including Myanmar and Vietnam;
 - b) Drafting of the initial TOR of the Education Research Network and the framework for the development of the guidebook for sending to participating countries for inputs/comments; and
 - c) Preparation for the conduct of the second meeting in September 2014;