

Mission Report

4TH ANNUAL FORUM FOR HIGH OFFICIALS OF BASIC EDUCATION OF SEAMEO MEMBER COUNTRIES AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

THEME: PROMOTING ENTREPRENEURSHIP EDUCATION AND CULTURE WITHIN THE BASIC EDUCATION SYSTEM

BRUNEI DARUSSALAM

11-12 JUNE 2014

A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

Dr Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMES Director and Dr Asmah Ahmad, Programme Officer II.

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

Employability of young people is of paramount concern not only to countries in this region but also to all countries around the world. We acknowledge that the development of entrepreneurship plays an important role in the economic development and employment creation of a country. We also acknowledge that education should encompass both academic knowledge and practical skills to prepare young people for responsible citizenship and the world of work. However, since entrepreneurship education has its root in business education, many countries are still focusing on entrepreneurship development in adult education level and not so much in basic education.

Today, it is important that entrepreneurship education as well as the development of the entrepreneurial culture exist at all educational levels including primary and secondary schools throughout common curricula. For instance, the national curriculum for basic education should include elements of entrepreneurship education and the idea of entrepreneurship also should be embedded in all subjects and pedagogy, not applied as a specific subject. Fostering entrepreneurship attitudes and skills especially in secondary schools raises awareness of career opportunities as well as of ways young people can contribute to the development and prosperity of their communities. It helps to improve the quality of education and at the same time will reduce youth vulnerability, social marginalization and poverty.

In the school contexts, entrepreneurship education is not a subject in its own right but must be implemented as an interactive theme which will be included in the local subject and be realized through school cultures. The entrepreneurship education will not only help students to develop innovation and business ideas, but also to strengthen cooperation between school and work life, fostering the right mindset, entrepreneurial skills and awareness of career opportunity.

The success of the entrepreneurship programme is very much depend on the support from the school administrators and professional development of teachers; the wishes and concerns of students, parents and even the community; the partnership model used; and the curriculum design and contents which include the planning, evaluation and measurement for its teaching and learning effectiveness.

Objectives of the Forum:

1. To keep abreast with the current regional and global trends, issues and challenges in entrepreneurship education.
2. To share knowledge of best practices relating to entrepreneurship education that has positive impact on school children's future business and entrepreneurship development.
3. To explore potential areas for collaboration on entrepreneurial education among SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Members and development agencies.

Expected Results:

1. Enhance knowledge and implementation of the different success programmes, projects, policies, strategies, national curriculum in providing entrepreneurship skills for primary and secondary school students.
2. Strengthen cooperation in entrepreneurship education among Member Countries.

The theme selected for the Fourth Forum was "Promoting Entrepreneurship Education and Culture Within the Basic Education System".

C. Participants

The participants were consisted of high officials from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Singapore and SEAMES.

D. Organizer

Ministry of Education Brunei Darussalam

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

Dr Haji Junaidi bin Haji Abdul Rahman, Permanent Secretary of Core Education, Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam presented on the achievements, challenges and way forward.

He indicated the 14 achievements with regards to the entrepreneurship education within the SEAMEO Member Countries:

1. Multi agencies efforts (Ministry of Education with other government agencies and private sectors);
2. Introduction of Entrepreneurship Education from primary level and within the basic education system;
3. Income Generating Unit Programme whereby schools develop products and sell to the community;
4. Promoting Entrepreneurship Education through Community Learning Centre;
5. The importance of sound values, ethics and character education included in

- Entrepreneurship Education;
6. Certification for Entrepreneurship Education within the basic education system;
 7. Entrepreneurship as a subject at the school level;
 8. Establishments of Entrepreneurship Clubs;
 9. Whole-school integrated programme (Connecting academic knowledge and skills with the real world);
 10. Participation in Entrepreneurship Competitions;
 11. Elective modules on Entrepreneurship;
 12. Applied Learning Programmes (Business & Entrepreneurship);
 13. Career-based curriculum; and
 14. Sufficiency Economy Philosophy (Self-reliant living).

Nevertheless, there are challenges faced by SEAMEO Member countries in conducting Entrepreneur Education, the challenges that he pointed were, inadequate specialized teachers/instructors in Entrepreneurship Education which most countries are facing; employability of graduates is of paramount concern; there are also inadequate support from parents and communities with the implementation of Entrepreneurship Education; also on the issue of limited allocation of budget, limited infrastructure, facilities and support services.

He identified eight ways forward which was agreed by SEAMEO Member countries: (1) Student and teacher exchange programmes among SEAMEO Member Countries; (2) A common understanding and definition of Entrepreneurship Education among SEAMEO Member Countries; (3) Comparative study about entrepreneurship activities in the formal and non-formal education; (4) Teacher and school leaders training programmes for SEAMEO Member Countries; (5) Provision of frameworks and guidelines on Entrepreneurship Education; (6) To continue seminars and forums on Entrepreneurship Education among SEAMEO Member Countries; and (7) Recognition awards for Entrepreneurship Education; and (8) He added that with the help of entrepreneurship experts, he believed that they will be able to train the school teachers and school leaders in improving the skills and knowledge on Entrepreneurship Education. This is because school leaders play the main role in promoting entrepreneurship education.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

The role of SEAMEO Secretariat was to deliver opening speech at the beginning of the forum and to provide inputs in the discussion during the forum. In addition, the role of SEAMEO Secretariat was to assist Brunei Secretariat in the reporting of the forum.

G. Follow-up Actions Needed

To submit to Member Countries and Associate Members the final report of the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education for Member Countries and Associate Members.

H. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

The final report of the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education for Member Countries and Associate Members as attached.