



Mission Report

Global Education Dialogues The East Asia Series

From National Industry to Regional Player to Global System – What is the Role of the ASEAN University?

4-5 July 2014, Park Royal Hotel, Yangon, Myanmar

A. SEAMEO Secretariat Official and Staff Member on Mission:

1. Dr Witaya Jeradechakul, SEAMEO Secretariat Director
2. Ms Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer I

B. Background and Objectives of the Meetings

1. The event is the first in a series of six Global Education Dialogues (GED) to be held in East Asia in 2014 to 2015, with the other five scheduled for China, the Philippines, Indonesia, South Korea and Australia. Each dialogue has a specific and focused agenda. The series as a whole frames the debate on current issues affecting higher education in East Asia.
2. The GED in Myanmar, with the theme, 'From National Industry to Regional Player to Global System- What is the Role of the ASEAN University?', aims to open the floor to important questions related to Myanmar and other ASEAN countries in higher education and aims to help Myanmar's higher education sector integrate into a vibrant and inclusive economic region.

C. Organizer

1. GED Myanmar, the East Asia Series is organized by British Council Myanmar with UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, Myanmar as partners.

D. Participation/Role of SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres

1. SEAMEO Secretariat is invited to discuss on the topic '*Creating ASEAN Student Experience*', highlighting the efforts of SEAMEO's contributions on reforming higher education in the region for ASEAN integration.
2. With SEAMEO Secretariat's partnership with British Council for the SEAMEO Congress, SEAMEO Secretariat was likewise invited to take part in the networking sessions to promote SEAMEO Congress and to learn from the experience of British Council of holding international conferences.

E. Highlights of the Event

1. The higher education experts from East Asia and UK invited as speakers in the event presented various perspectives, areas for discussions and recommendations for Myanmar and ASEAN region, which include among others:

- a) What work is currently underway to prepare Higher Education (HE) landscape for 2015?
 - b) What lessons can be learned from other regional HE integration activities?
 - c) Are there new models of university on the global stage and how working with these institutions help revitalize universities in Myanmar?
 - d) How strong is the relationship between industry and HE in Myanmar and ASEAN and how can this be developed to support research, innovation and commercialization?
 - e) How can we define and design universities that are gold standard and world-class?
 - f) What are the tools available to universities on this journey of reform and regional and international integration and collaboration?
2. A keynote presentation from representation of MOE Myanmar, *Strengthening of Myanmar Universities: From National to Global*, tackled how education reforms are being carried out in Myanmar in both basic and higher education and how the Myanmar government is crafting future plans and addressing critical gaps in terms of capacity and resources issues.
 3. The event highlighted the role of industry and innovation in education, especially in creating global standard universities. A global tertiary education expert, Dr Jamil Salmi highlighted the importance of research in the development of universities in Asia and the need to link research to the development needs of the countries in the region. A representative from Myanmar Engineering Society, on the other hand, presented the significance of employer engagement and the industry expectations and challenges to education service providers.
 4. As one of the parallel sessions, *ASEAN: The Regional Drive for Excellence*, provided opportunities for speakers from East Asia and UK to present different perspectives on the current efforts on higher education in the region. ASEAN University Network and University of Hongkong presented their respective efforts and recommendations on reforms needed in higher education. SEAMEO Secretariat, for its part, elaborated on how education system of today can be re-shaped to produce new breed of ASEAN students; emphasized the competencies and experiences requisite for ASEAN students to thrive in a competitive environment. SEAMEO's presentations also highlighted its contributions in terms of paving the way for the creation of common space in higher education in the region through harmonization of education and qualification standards and establishment of regional framework for student mobility.

F. Immediate Follow Up Actions from SEAMEO Secretariat

1. Learning from the conduct of the Global Education Dialogues, the SEAMEO Secretariat to consider the possibility of enhancing the programme of the SEAMEO Congress through:
 - Inclusion of a feedback Session from the Parallel Sessions and Discussions at the end of the day's session with Chairs/Moderators of the Session providing a brief synthesis and core messages from their respective sessions;
 - Assigning a Moderator/Chair who will provide Observations for Day 1 of the event, providing general observations on the day's events in terms of content, issues raised and trends in the discussions.