

Appendix 7

BRIEF REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF THE SEAMEO-UK EDUCATION AND RESEARCH LINKS: SEAMEO'S STUDY VISIT OF UK EDUCATION AND RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS**A. Agreements of SEAMEO and British Council and Follow Up Actions**

1. As a result of the *SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Link: SEAMEO's Study Visit of UK Education and Research Institutions*, SEAMEO and British Council came up with the following agreements and follow up actions to pursue proposed SEAMEO-UK collaborations:
 - a. SEAMEO TROPED Network to prepare a detailed proposal on the proposed **Student and Research Mobility** for submission to the 6 October 2014 Call for Proposal of Newton Fund. Inputs of the SEAMEO Centres shall be sought for the finalization of the proposal.
 - b. SEAMEO TROPED Network and SEAMEO Secretariat to develop a full proposal on the proposed **Capacity Building Programme on QA for SEAMEO** which could be submitted for possible funding under the UK-ASEAN Knowledge Partnership Fund and in partnership with the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). The proposal could be submitted should include among others:
 - Benefits of QAA will be getting from collaborating with SEAMEO in terms of development of QAA mechanisms; (i.e. support for scoping visit, access to knowledge information);
 - Scoping visit to SEAMEO to be able for QAA to appropriately design
 - c. SEAMEO INNOTECH to prepare a full project proposal on the **Proposed UK-SEAMEO Collaborative Research Initiative** to be submitted for possible funding under the Newton Fund. The proposal should:
 - Focus on research agenda identified as priorities by the target countries of the Newton Fund (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines and Vietnam)
 - Highlight the impact of the proposed initiative; and
 - Be aligned with the requirements/purpose/guidelines of the Newton Fund.
 - d. SEAMEO Secretariat to prepare a proposal on **Technical Training and Employability**, a proposed collaboration with University of West England (UWE) and possibly Swansea University. The proposal should:
 - Highlight TVET and outward student mobility as a shared priority of British Council and SEAMEO;
 - Prioritize UK companies in Thailand as pilot companies for the provision of technical training
 - Articulate the collaboration mechanisms between SEAMEO and UWE and the inputs or contributions of both partners in the proposed collaboration
2. SEAMEO and British Council, Thailand will be the coordinating body for the proposed SEAMEO-UK collaborations. British Council Thailand will assist the SEAMEO Secretariat in facilitating the submissions of the proposals to Newton Fund facility. SEAMEO Secretariat will be coordinating with the SEAMEO Centres in the development and finalization of the proposals.
3. A report on the results of the SEAMEO-UK Education and Research Links: SEAMEO's Study Visit to UK Education and Research Institutions is to be presented to the 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in November 2014.
4. It is proposed by the SEAMEO delegation that a planning meeting be held on 23 October 2014, after the SEAMEO Congress, to further discuss the details of the proposed programmes.

B. Initial Programme Concepts on the Proposed SEAMEO-UK Collaborations

1. Student and Researcher Mobility

This initiative aims to facilitate capacity building of students and researchers in Southeast Asia and to support the establishment of links in the area of research and development.

a. Specific Objectives

1. To provide opportunities for students from Southeast Asia to benefit educationally, linguistically and culturally from the experience of learning in UK institutions;
2. To provide opportunities for researchers to enhance their research capabilities as well as expand their linkages and networks; and
3. To contribute to the development of a cadre of well-qualified, internationally experienced young graduates and research professionals.

b. Proposed Modalities

For Student Mobility Component

- Full PhD scholarships
- PhD placement which can be either be: (1) attendance to related courses which can form part of the PhD programme of the student or (2) thesis/dissertation undertaken in UK or SEAMEO partner country;
- Joint Supervision of PhD students of the SEAMEO Regional Centres

For Researcher Mobility Component

- Research capability building of researchers of SEAMEO Centres through travel grants to UK research institutions
- Joint research activities between UK and SEAMEO Centres
- Mentoring programme between senior researchers in UK and young researchers in SEAMEO Centres

c. Rationale for Proposed Initiative to be Funded under the Newton Fund

This programme is being proposed for possible funding under the Newton Fund as it aligns to the facility's aim "to develop partner countries long term sustainable growth and welfare through building research and innovation capacity".

Potentially, the proposed programme aims to target funding support from Newton Fund's people pillar:

- Newton PhD program which aims to facilitate capacity building of individuals and the building of sustainable and long-lasting links between UK and overseas institutions through PhD scholarships, placements and partnership.
- Newton Researcher Links Programme aims to stimulate initial links between, and support capacity building, among early researcher in partner countries and UK.
- International Collaboration programme supports early career and established researchers in visiting, and embarking on collaborative researches with, their UK counterparts.

d. Target Beneficiaries

- Students and researchers from Newton Fund priority countries: Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam

e. Partnership Mechanisms

- The programme is to be implemented through partnerships between SEAMEO Centres and relevant universities (i.e. UWE, QMUL, Swansea and others)

- Coordination mechanisms between SEAMEO and UK partner shall be detailed in the full proposal including roles/responsibilities and contributions of both SEAMEO and partner/s.

2. Capacity Building Programme on Quality Assurance (QA) for SEAMEO

This proposed initiative aims to stimulate knowledge sharing and to create long-term partnership between SEAMEO and UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) with the end view of developing QAA capacities of QA institutions in Southeast Asia.

a. Specific Objectives

1. For SEAMEO to benefit from QAA's expertise in ensuring the quality delivery of its services and products (i.e. education programmes, training, research papers, technical assistance etc);
2. To establish an organizational-wide QA system in SEAMEO; and
3. For SEAMEO and QAA to develop a QA capacity building programme to build the QA capacities of Ministries of Education in SEAMEO Member Countries

b. Proposed Modalities

Training on QA for SEAMEO (Phase 1)

- Experts from UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) to provide training to SEAMEO key officials and staff
- Expected Output of the training is *QA Framework for SEAMEO*, which SEAMEO, as an organization will implement
- QA Framework will enable establishment of quality code for SEAMEO's primary functions on programme development, training, research, technical assistance and knowledge sharing

Establishment of QA in SEAMEO (Phase 2)

- Experts from QAA will provide technical assistance to SEAMEO in operationalizing the framework
- Involves the pilot testing of the QA Framework in SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres;
- Consultation and sharing sessions shall be conducted for continuous development/enhancement of the QA system; technical guidance from QAA experts shall be requested

Development of QA Capacity Building Plan for SEAMEO Member Countries (Phase 3)

- As a long-term plan, SEAMEO and QAA shall develop a QA capacity building programme for Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries to enhance institutional capacity on quality assuring education service delivery;
- The capacity building plan shall be presented and proposed for adoption to the SEAMEO Member Countries through SEAMEO High Officials Meeting and SEAMEO Council

c. Rationale for Proposed Initiative to be Funded under the UK-ASEAN Knowledge Partnership Fund

This proposed programme is proposed for funding support under the UK-ASEAN Knowledge Partnership Fund as it aligns with the facility's intention to create new partnerships between UK and Southeast Asia in knowledge-related fields of education, research and development and innovation.

d. Target Beneficiaries

- SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres
- Ministries of Education and QA institutions of SEAMEO Member Countries

e. Partnership Mechanisms

- The programme is to be implemented through partnerships between SEAMEO and UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)
- Details of the mechanisms for the partnership, roles/responsibilities and contributions of both SEAMEO and QAA shall be included in the full proposal to be developed for this proposed initiative.

3. Proposed UK-SEAMEO Collaborative Research Initiative

This proposed initiative aims to SEAMEO position itself as a strategic partner to UK by leveraging its own resources as matching funds to those of the Newton Research and Collaboration Programme to support the implementation of innovative research and innovation projects in priority partner countries (Indonesia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam).

a. Specific Objectives

1. To support the efforts of national and local education authorities (Ministries of Education) to build institutional capacity for responsive applied research, innovation and development;
2. To stimulate research collaboration between UK and priority countries; and
3. To stimulate development of innovative research and innovation projects in Southeast Asia and UK

b. Proposed Modalities

Identification of Priority Research Agenda by the Priority Countries for Funding Support under Newton Fund

- Specialist SEAMEO Centers will work with Ministries of Education to identify a priority research and development agenda for possible funding support by the Newton Fund and interested SEAMEO Centers.

Development and Delivery of the Innovative Research or Innovation Projects

- SEAMEO Centers will provide their respective expertise and resources to act as research and development delivery partners with counterpart UK-based universities, research institutions and interested private sector partners and other stakeholders;
- Key officials/focal points from the priority member countries shall be involved in the entire process of the development and implementation of the research/project to ensure technology transfer and institutional capacity building in the area of research.

Proposed Research Agenda Focus

- It is proposed that research and development and institutional capacity building focus on one of the most pressing priority socio-economic challenges facing the five priority partner countries, namely the impact of climate change and other natural disasters on education systems and communities.

c. Rationale for Proposed Initiative to be Funded under the Newton Fund

Five of the Newton Fund priority countries (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam) host between them 17 of the 20 SEAMEO Centers providing a strategic opportunity for the Newton Fund to foster UK-ASEAN knowledge partnership building in the fields of education, research and development and innovation.

The two Programmes under the Newton Fund: Newton Research and Collaboration Programs seek to foster partnerships to build the capacity of partner countries to design, implementation and evaluate innovative research and development projects which address emerging socio-economic and environmental challenges impacting on community and national development. This aligns with the SEAMEO mandate of addressing regional understanding, cooperation and unity of purpose among Member Countries for a better quality of life through the establishment of networks and partnerships, the provision of fora among policy makers and experts, and the promotion of sustainable human resource development.

d. Target Beneficiaries

- Ministries of Education of Newton Fund priority countries Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
- SEAMEO Centres and UK research institutions and universities to mutually benefit from partnership and knowledge-sharing

f. Partnership Mechanisms

- Project implementation will be conducted by participating SEAMEO Centers and partner UK universities and research institutions in close coordination with national agencies and other stakeholders;
- A project management committee involving these key agencies will be formed to provide project oversight and guidance;
- SEAMEO Secretariat and British Council in Bangkok be the coordinating focal points for coordination with the assigned UK Newton delivery partners
- A full proposal shall be developed for this initiative that will provide details on the mechanisms for the partnership, roles/responsibilities and contributions of participating countries, SEAMEO and UK partners;
- Depending on the priority research agenda to be identified by the participating countries, relevant partners could potentially include UK universities such as QMUL, UWE and Swansea University

4. Technical Training and Employability Initiative

This initiative generally aims to stimulate education-industry partnerships on technical and vocational education and training between institutions in SEAMEO Member Countries and UK.

a. Specific Objectives

1. To stimulate student mobility by providing opportunities for students from Southeast Asia to benefit from exchange learning programmes in technical training institutions and on-the-job-training programmes in private/industry companies in UK and vice versa;
2. To support the efforts of the SEAMEO Member Countries and UK in building its institutional capacity for improving technical training and enhancing employability skills of its graduates;

b. Proposed Modalities

Knowledge Exchange of Ideas and Pre-Program Mobilization

- Relevant SEAMEO Centres and selected higher education institutions in SEAMEO Member Countries to conduct study visits to relevant Swansea University and UWE exchange visits for initial discussions on the development of the mechanisms for the TVET exchange programme including modalities for on-the-job-training or internship programmes in private companies/industries;

Student Technical Training and Immersion

- Students from Southeast Asia to acquire technical and vocational training course in host UK universities and vice versa; the programme to include a short-term internship opportunity or on-the-job-training programme to be provided by the host university's partner private company or industry.
- Relevant SEAMEO Centres will facilitate the selection and participation of students to the programme

Capacity Building on University Faculty and SEAMEO Centres on Technical Training and Employability

- SEA universities identify key personnel to send to UWE and Swansea University for 4-6 week secondment, immersion, job shadowing and extended capacity building;
- It is expected that the faculty staff or Centre officials Expected will be able to develop a programme plan for their respective institution upon return to home country.
- The programme plan will provide strategies on how to improve the capacities of the institutions in delivering technical training and strategies for employability. The programme plan will also include strategies and opportunities to enhance student mobility on TVET

Implementation of Technical Training and Employability Plan

- Involves the implementation of the programme plan (technical training and employability programme) in the institution and SEAMEO Centre
- UWE and Swansea University to provide experts to periodically monitor and provide ongoing technical assistance (both remotely and in-country) and participate in post-pilot evaluation and planning for program scale-up/institutionalization

c. Rationale for Proposed Initiative to be Funded under the Newton Fund

- Funding is to be sought from the Newton Research and Collaboration Programs as this proposed *Technical Training and Employability Initiative* aims to foster partnerships between partner countries and UK in the area of technical and vocation education with the end view of enhancing the capacities of education institutions in designing and implementing technical training programmes that ensures employability of its graduates.

d. Target Beneficiaries

- Students from priority countries Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam
- Universities, TVET institutions and SEAMEO Centres
- UK universities to benefit from student and faculty exchanges with universities in Southeast Asia

e. Partnership Mechanisms

- This initiative is to be implemented through partnerships between SEAMEO Centres, selected higher education institutions/universities and UK universities, UWE and Swansea;
- Coordination mechanisms between SEAMEO, HE institutions and UK partners shall be detailed in the full proposal including partnerships mechanisms, roles/responsibilities and contributions of both SEAMEO and UK partner/s.