



Mission Report

13th Governing Board Meeting SEAMEO Regional Centre for Culture and History (SEAMEO CHAT)

9-11 October 2014
Mandalay, Myanmar

Prepared by Tinsiri Siribodhi

A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

1. Tinsiri Siribodhi

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

1. SEAMEO CHAT is a centre whose expertise is on history and tradition located in Yangon, Myanmar. The Centre was established in 2000. This year is the 13th Governing Board Meeting of the Centre and it was held in Mandalay, Myanmar.

C. Participants

1. There were a total of 15 participants attended the meeting. They are Governing Board Members from Cambodia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, a representative from Indonesia, a representative from SEAMEO Secretariat, the Acting Director of SEAMEO CHAT and the Staff of SEAMEO CHAT.

D. Organizer

1. SEAMEO CHAT

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

1. According to the Guidelines of SEAMEO Governing Board Meeting, the quorum of the Board meeting should be two-thirds of its voting members. Due to the change of date of the meeting, only 5 board members were able to attend. In view of the already arranged logistic for the meeting, it was agreed that the meeting would proceed. The Meeting agree that the agreement from the Meeting would be sent to the other Board Members who did not attend for approval via referendum.
2. The Meeting elected the board member from Malaysia to be the Chairperson, the board member from Myanmar to be the Vice Chair, and the board member from Cambodia to be the rapportuer accordingly.
3. The Meeting approved the appointment by the Ministry of Education,

Myanmar of Ms Myint Myint Ohn, the Acting Director of SEAMEO CHAT as the Director of SEAMEO CHAT.

4. The Meeting approved the hiring of a new auditor, U Khine Win for FY 2014/2015. The previous auditor, Daw Yee Yee Khin was unable to perform the task due to health problem. The Chair emphasized that SEAMEO CHAT should communicate with the new auditor on the new auditing standard which was required. The Meeting requested the Centre to refer to the information that SEAMEO Secretariat sent out to the Centre.
5. The Meeting approved the overall amount of the Proposed Three Year Budget (FY 2015-2016 to FY 2017-2018) with a request for SEAMEO CHAT to resubmit the details to the Board within a week for approval.
6. SEAMEO CHAT has opened a new bank account with Western Union for money transfer. Note: in the past the Centre is not allowed to open an account with foreign bank.
7. SEAMEO CHAT will move its office by the end of this month.
8. The SEAMEO Secretariat requested SEAMEO CHAT to align its annual report and KRA to the 4 themes of SEAMEO Strategic Goals. SEAMEO CHAT took note and agreed to the suggestion.
9. SEAMEO CHAT is very active with the Community Involvement Project and its adopted school. As a result, the two adopted schools have become very popular among parents in Yangon and the student's enrollment has increased significantly.
10. The Meeting took note and provided advice to SEAMEO CHAT key programmes for 2015, 1) International Conference on Traditions in a Changing World, 2) Programme on Mon Culture and Society.
11. The 14th SEAMEO CHAT Governing Board Meeting will be held in Yangon in September 2015.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. Gave an opening remark on behalf of SEAMEO Secretariat
2. Gave a presentation on significant, agreements and resolutions from the SEAMEO Annual Meetings
3. Provided feedback to the working papers

G. Side Meeting/s

1. Had a meeting with Dr. Soe Win, the Director General Higher Education, Ministry of Education Myanmar who has been assigned by the Minister of Education Myanmar to oversee SEAMEO works. I gave a presentation and list out the points for Dr. Soe Win to further coordinate with SEAMEO Secretariat.
2. The agenda of the meeting is below:

Points of discussion

1. Ministry of Education, Myanmar's role/support to SEAMEO as a SEAMEO Member Country for coordination purposes
 - a. Appoint a "SEAMEO Desk Officer" as a focal person to coordination on SEAMEO activities
 - b. Appoint a representative to each SEAMEO Regional Centres for Governing Board Meetings
 - c. Participate in the SEAMEO Annual Meetings
 - i. SEAMEO High Officials Meeting (annually)
 - ii. SEAMEO Council Conference (biannually)
 - d. Send representatives to SEAMEO activities based on the programs & activities (funding are also provided for some of the activities from the organizers or SEAMEO Secretariat)
2. Values
 - a. Involvement in regional contribution and development toward national policy development
 - b. Networking among experts and High level officials
 - c. Gaining expertise and assistants from experts

H. Follow-up Actions Needed

1. Follow-up with the Ministry of Education Myanmar concerning the new SEAMEO Desk Officer.
2. Provide link to SEAMEO CHAT on the publication title, "Tradition of Southeast Asia" on SEAMEO Secretariat webpage.
3. Send document on "Guidelines for SEAMEO Governing Board Meeting" and "SEAMEO Strategic Plan (2011-2020)" to SEAMEO CHAT

I. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

1. Agenda
2. Pictures



