



Mission Report

Regional Consultative Meetings on SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES) and the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM)

**4-5 November 2014
SEAMEO RECSAM
Penang, Malaysia**

A. SEAMEO Officials on Mission

1. Dr Witaya Jeradechakul, Director
2. Dr I Handoko, Deputy Director (Programme and Development)
3. Dr Asmah Ahmad, Programme Officer
4. Ms Lauranne Beernaert, SEA-PLM Project Assistant

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

This meeting in Penang, Malaysia actually consisted of two back-to-back meetings respectively on SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA_BES) and Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM).

On the first hand, the SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES) initiative is aimed at developing common SEAMEO basic education curriculum standards based on shared ASEAN values and national curriculum frameworks and through benchmarking with the curriculum of world-class performing countries with evidences in international assessments. Specifically, it aims to establish a common SEAMEO education framework as to the number of years of schooling and the development of basic education curriculum standards and indicators in the secondary level for the four learning areas (i.e. Science, Mathematics, English, and Entrepreneurship).

On the other hand, The Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) serves the goal of improving quality of education through system level monitoring of learner achievements. This initiative is the first of its kind to be based on shared ASEAN values and national curriculum frameworks and aims at providing assessment of higher level of complexity and mastery of content. It is a direct response to a need for a targeted assessment tools to measure learning outcomes for primary grades. It includes 3 key learning domains: numeracy, literacy and 21st century/global citizenship skills and will initially target grade 5, but possibilities exist to expand the metric to include assessment tools for early primary grades.

Objectives of the Meeting:

- To take stock of global, regional and national developments in curriculum and educational standards with a view to establish common standards across SEAMEO Countries

- To agree on a coherent and feasible way forward for the development of curriculum and educational standards in the region
- To identify key next steps in the development of SEAMEO Basic Education Standards (SEA-BES) for Secondary Level in Science, Mathematics, English and Entrepreneurship
- To familiarize participants on the development of assessment standards in the region: the ECD Scales and Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metric (SEA-PLM)
- To enhance understanding over the future direction of SEA-PLM and agree on key principles
- To explore the relationship between SEA-BES and SEA-PLM:
 - a. to clarify linkages between SEA-PLM and SEA-BES
 - b. to assess overlapping areas and possibilities for sharing of developments and research
 - c. to discuss and agree on preliminary plans for adopting the framework of SEA-PLM to inform the SEA-BES

C. Participants

Participants included SEAMEO Centre experts, SEAMEO Member Countries representatives and international institutes and organisations such as the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER), the Korea Institute of Curriculum and Evaluation (KICE), UNESCO Bangkok, UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), Aga Khan University (Pakistan) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD).

D. Organizer/s

SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO RECSAM were the two organizers and UNICEF EAPRO financially supported the meetings, as part of the Memorandum of Agreement between SEAMEO Secretariat and UNICEF EAPRO on the SEA-PLM.

E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

- Participants attended common sessions and presentations related to the international assessments and standards but were also split in two groups, depending on their involvement in either the SEA-BES or SEA-PLM.

The group on SEA-BES discussed about the following points:

1. To identify key steps and mechanisms in the development of SEAMEO Basic Education Standards, (a) Basic education framework (as to years of schooling) and (b) Basic education curriculum standards at the secondary level for the four subject areas (Science, Mathematics, English and Entrepreneurship)
2. To identify how the framework of SEA-PLM can inform SEA-BES.

The aim of the second group on the SEA-PLM was to enhance understanding over the future direction of SEA-PLM and agree on key principles through:

1. An in-depth discussion on the overall approach/purpose of SEA-PLM
2. Discussion on the key design elements

3. Function and expectations for Domain Technical Review Panel (DTRP) members and coordinators, in-country facilitating units and national and regional level participation

- The participation of international assessment experts from the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) was very important since ACER has been hired by UNICEF EAPRO to develop the tools and protocols of the SEA-PLM.
- There were discussions on the definition of the concept of 'SEAMEO Basic Education Standard' and 'Global Citizenship' and what does it mean in the context of Southeast Asia.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO Secretariat

SEAMEO Secretariat helped SEAMEO RECSAM to coordinate with the different participants from SEAMEO Centres and MOE officials.

SEAMEO Secretariat, as one of the co-organizer, developed with SEAMEO RECSAM the agenda of the meetings and co-chaired with UNICEF EAPRO the SEA-PLM Second Regular Steering Committee Meeting on 4 November 2014.

The SEAMEO Secretariat staff was split in two groups (SEA-BES and SEA-PLM) for the group sessions depending on their involvement in the two projects and to ensure that the SEAMEO Secretariat was involved in the two group discussions.

E. Pictures



REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE MEETINGS ON SEAMEO BASIC EDUCATION STANDARDS (SEA-BES) AND SOUTHEAST ASIA PRIMARY LEARNING METRICS (SEA-PLM)

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SEAMEO RECSAM, PENANG, MALAYSIA

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