

GBM2015 SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics

Brief Remarks by

Dr Asmah Ahmad

Programme Officer II

on behalf of

Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto

Director of SEAMEO Secretariat

Honorable Chair and Members of the Governing Board of
SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics,

Prof. Subanar, Centre Director of SEAMEO QITEP in
Mathematics,

Colleagues at SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Selamat sejahtera. Good afternoon. I bring with me warmest greetings from the SEAMEO Secretariat. It is my great honor for me to be here with you today and be involved in the Governing Board Meeting.

As you are all aware, the SEAMEO Regional Centres place high importance to the annual meeting of the Governing Board; it is their recommendations and decisions which set the priorities and guide the Centres' direction for the next fiscal year.

With regard to the SEAMEO Secretariat, we always look forward to Governing Board Meetings as they provide us with a valuable opportunity to ensure that agreements and resolutions from various SEAMEO gatherings - the Council Conference, the High Officials Meeting, the Executive Committee Meeting, the Centre Directors Meeting - are put forward and discussed with the Centres' Governing Board.

But we, the SEAMEO Secretariat and the SEAMEO Centres, have also come to rely on the technical inputs and experts' advice from our highly-esteemed members of the Board. As a result, the Governing Board plays a vital role in the SEAMEO Centres' operation, and therefore a pivotal role in ensuring SEAMEO maintains the revered status of regional excellence in human resource development: education, science and culture.

SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics is certainly contributing to this reputation. Since your launch in 2009, it is evident that you have been able to develop capacity building for mathematics teachers and education personnel, growing each year so that you have gone from strength to strength in order to fulfill your to enhance professional excellence in mathematics, and realize your four (4) initial goals: to improve the quality of mathematics teaching, promote sustainable professional development for teachers, to establish networks, and to provide intellectual forums.

This past fiscal year has been no different, and the SEAMEO Secretariat congratulates you on the work you've already undertaken, such as the course on Joyful Learning in Mathematics Education and the course on SEA Realistic Mathematics Education, as well as the upcoming courses on Lesson Study in Mathematics Education, IT Based Mathematics Learning, which I am sure will continue your success.

This past fiscal year has also been a momentous one for SEAMEO. As we prepare to celebrate our 50th anniversary we have seen some important milestones in our development.

First of all, at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference, the Minister of Education Thailand was unanimously elected SEAMEO Council President and chair of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. This election will ensure that the strong commitment towards regional, national, and international cooperation and collaboration will continue. As well as this, the prioritization of technology

and emphasis on teacher training will mean that all 21 SEAMEO Centres may be able to continue fulfilling the undoubted potential to develop Southeast Asian education, science and culture. Under the guidance of the Council President, I am confident that SEAMEO will continue its success of the last 50 years.

To that end, another milestone over the last fiscal year, has been the revisit of the SEAMEO Strategic Plan from 2011-2020. The mid-term review meeting was held in June of this year and from it SEAMEO has been able to review our Strategic Goals, Priority Areas, Central Strategies, SEAMEO Initiatives and Operational Plans. Priorities such as sustainable development, global citizenship, human resources, lifelong learning, mobility, urbanization, and human trafficking remain constant, yet we have to be honest with ourselves and assess how we go about achieving these.

I would be amiss if I did not also mention another milestone in our development, the introduction of 7 Priority

Areas of SEAMEO (2015-2035), and the 5 Recommendations from the Ministerial Round Table Meeting at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference. These are presented in detail in the Working Paper 1 include 1) Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE); (2) Addressing barriers to inclusion; (3) Resiliency in the face of emergencies; (4) Promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET); (5) Teacher Education; (6) Harmonization in higher education and research; and (7) Adopting a 21st Century curriculum.

Here, let me say that I believe these to be a significant step forward for SEAMEO. They give us a clear direction from which we can work which continues to emphasize the values of the “Education for All” program and the priorities I just mentioned, but also incorporates the opportunities and barriers presented to us in 2015.

We live in a rapidly changing region, with exciting possibilities and serious challenges. The recent development of the ASEAN community is testament to

this. Our seven priorities over the next 20 years are aimed at meeting these head on. SEAMEO is attempting to develop an education system in Southeast Asia that is proactive and future-orientated, and yet rooted in the values and traditions of the region. Over 50 years we have accomplished so much, however we can not be satisfied with the work we have already done, we must continue to work together so that Southeast Asia continues to develop and fulfil its potential.

Ladies and gentlemen,

At this point, on behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Indonesia for its support to SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics. I also thank the Governments of all eleven SEAMEO Member Countries for their continued support; especially through you, the members of the Governing Board, for allowing SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics to benefit from your experience and expertise.

Lastly, I thank the directorship and staff of SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics for all the preparations for this Meeting. Events as important as this take a significant amount of planning, hard work and dedication behind the scenes, from what I have seen so far your efforts admirably reflect on SEAMEO and SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics.

Terima kasih. Thank you.