

GBM2015 SEAMEO SEAMOLEC

Welcome remarks

Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto
SEAMEO Secretariat Director

The Chair and Members of the Governing Board of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC

My colleagues at SEAMEO SEAMOLEC

Ladies and gentlemen

Good morning. 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 a one and only Ex-Officio Member.

It is quite a strange feeling for me to be addressing the Governing Board and colleagues at SEAMEO SEAMOLEC as a Director of SEAMEO Secretariat this time. Strange, but I must admit that there is also a feeling of homecoming since I had been working with several of the Governing Board Members for SEAMEO SEAMOLEC quite a number of years.

It is another year for SEAMEO; another successful year for SEAMEO SEAMOLEC; and I must say that one single SEAMEO Centre's success is a success felt and shared by the rest of SEAMEO, most specifically us at the SEAMEO Secretariat. We beam with pride for every accomplishment of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC.

As you are all aware, the SEAMEO 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. This is no exception to SEAMEO SEAMOLEC.

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, SEAMEO Secretariat and the SEAMEO Centres, have also **come to rely on the experts' advice and technical inputs** from our 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 of human resource development in science, education, and culture.**

With regard to SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, I must congratulate you all on your tireless efforts to ensure that the centre has expertise in open and distance learning, and that it is able to assist SEAMEO countries in identifying education problems and finding alternative solutions for sustainable human resource development through Online Distance Learning.

There are many impressive initiatives which you have undertaken in the last fiscal year. The vast array of training programs & workshops –

such as SEA Digital class, SEA Edunet 2.0, Digital Book Multimedia-based Development, System of Learning Information Development (SOLID) SEAMEO, and SEA Language 1.0 – are pivotal in engaging and developing teachers, lecturers, students, and technicians, helping to encourage cross-discipline communication so that all can benefit from each other's expertise. The collaboration which you are responsible doesn't stop here however, as **the training programs and workshops also involve international cooperation**, such as between Indonesia, Myanmar, and Germany to improve capacity building of Myanmar teachers, as well as inter-centre cooperation, such as with SEAMEO QTIP in Science and SEAMEO RETRAC on applying inquiry-based science education through ICT.

Your engagement with research & development is also admirable. The grants provided to 100 researchers over the past year, have produced papers on quantitative and qualitative aspects of Online Digital Learning that are important for the future of education development in Southeast Asia. Here you are ensuring that there is continuous development to improve, and this is something you should all be very proud of.

Yet, your centre has been able to **accomplish more**; the development of SEA Online Course Management Application (SOCMA) and the web-conferencing system based on WebEx, are **certainly helping to reach all education stakeholders** including elementary and secondary schools, vocational schools, higher education, and non-formal education, **fulfilling a key remit of SEAMEO to provide education for all.**

These systems also **help with information dissemination, and combined with work** such as the SEA journal on Online Distance Learning, the SEAMOLEC Magazine, Brochures and Marketing Kits, a Video Profile, an Annual Report, and research publications like “Transforming Teaching and Learning through ICT Optimization” and “Research in Education Technology: Pedagogy and Technology”, challenge the rest of SEAMEO to follow your example.

This hard-work, as well as the internal evaluation of your programs to re-model and improve your approaches, methods and tools, means that SEAMOLEC continues to fulfill its mission and remains an accountable working system with a conducive working environment. Your refusal to rest on your laurels is an example we can all follow.

This past fiscal year has also been a momentous one for SEAMEO as a whole. **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, Thailand’s Minister of Education, His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai 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 Centers may be able to continue fulfilling the undoubted potential to develop Southeast Asian education, culture and science. Although recently there has been a **change of the leadership of the**

Council, from His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipatanasai to His Excellency General Daopong Rattanasuwan regarding Thailand Cabinet reshuffle, the policies and priorities remain unchanged. I am confident that SEAMEO will continue its success in the forthcoming years.

In addition, SEAMEO has accepted a new affiliate member from the People's Republic of China, **the China Education Association for International Exchange or CEAIE**. CEAIE is China's largest and most experienced nationwide not-for-profit organization conducting international education exchange and cooperation. It has the headquarter in Beijing as well as chapters in 31 provinces, autonomous regions and municipalities, and 15 cities. Its members cover education institutions from pre-school to higher education. CEAIE has established long term working relationship with over 170 educational organizations in more than 50 countries and regions. Also CEAIE has had the special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations and the official relations with UNESCO.

Apart from the recruitment of new affiliate member, **SEAMEO also has been working with various partners, which will be presented in the Working Paper.**

To that end, another milestone over the last fiscal year, has been **the revisit of the SEAMEO Strategic Plan of the year 2011 to 2020**. The mid-term review meeting was held in June this year back-to-back with the Centre Directors Meeting, and from it SEAMEO has been able to review our Strategic Goals, Strategic themes, and Initiatives. 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.

Additionally, **at the 2015 Centre Directors Meeting, all SEAMEO units have collaboratively come up with the consolidated annual plan,** containing Training, Workshop, and other activities of all Centres year round in one document. The link to the document can be retrieved from http://www.seameo.org/_files/AnnualPlan_2015-2016_FINAL_ewan.pdf.

I would be amiss if I did not also mention most significant 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 of SEAMEO Secretariat together with other updated agreements from several SEAMEO meetings in the past years, yet 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 gentleman

At this point, **on behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Indonesia** for the continuous and generous support to SEAMEO SEAMOLEC. I also thank **the governments of all eleven SEAMEO Member Countries for their continued support**; especially through the members of the Governing Board, **for allowing SEAMEO SEAMOLEC to benefit from your experience and expertise.**

Lastly, I thank the staff of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC 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, **your efforts admirably reflect on SEAMEO and SEAMEO SEAMOLEC.**

Thank you very much