



Mission Report

Country Visit Philippines Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 21 April 2016 Department of Education, Manila, Philippines

A. SEAMEO Officials on Mission

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B. Background

The SEA-PLM programme aims to achieve the breadth and rigour of a large-scale international survey, while at the same time addressing the unique needs and context of countries in the Southeast Asia region. The ultimate vision is to contribute towards improving learning outcomes across SEAMEO Member Countries by providing a regional culturally appropriate assessment that will secure equitable and meaningful education for all children across the region. The metrics will assess primary school grade 5 and cover key domains of reading, writing, mathematics and global citizenship. The findings from SEA-PLM will contribute to informing policy makers of the progress of educational development under their responsibility. Participating in SEA-PLM will also enhance in-country capacity, including the competences of national examination and assessment staff and strengthen ASEAN and SEAMEO technical collaboration on learning assessment and standards across education systems. The training programme offered under SEA-PLM provides opportunities for national experts who are responsible for implementing learning assessment reforms to benefit from an intense training and capacity development through their participation in SEA-PLM.

The SEA-PLM has been continuously supported and endorsed by the Ministers of Education and High Officials of the region and the first proposal about the initiative was presented on the occasion of the 35th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in November 2012. At the 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting in February 2014, the SEA-PLM Concept Note and Phase Two implementation plans were fully endorsed and Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand agreed to further engage in the implementation of SEA-PLM Phase 2 activities.

The interest of the countries of the region for the SEA-PLM was further confirmed during the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference 2015 which took note on the progress of the implementation of the SEA-PLM, including the organization of the official Launching Ceremony of the SEA-PLM involving the SEAMEO Member Countries in October 2014, with a Department of Education Philippines High Official sitting in the first SEA-PLM Regional Steering Committee Meeting.

In addition to this, along with all the other SEAMEO Member Countries, Philippines has been involved in the development of the framework and items of the assessment and questionnaires during the Domain Technical Review Panels (DTRP) Meeting and Item Development Workshop that took place in February 2015 and June 2015 respectively.

C. Objectives of the Meeting

- 1) To meet the High Officials of relevant departments within the Department of Education and members of the SEA-PLM National Steering Committee to discuss on issues affecting learning outcomes, how these are being addressed and the potential role of SEA-PLM in supporting national priorities and informing education policy; and
- 2) To meet the Technical Team members and discuss on the next steps of the preparation of the field trial of the SEA-PLM to Philippines. The focus of the visit would include an overview of the purpose of SEA-PLM, progress to date and lessons learned; discussion of the relevance of SEA-PLM to education improvement and global citizenship; plus a discussion on translation, sampling, coordination with the schools, logistics and tentative work plan.

D. Participants

Department of Education: Office of Undersecretary and Office of Secretary

1. Assistant Secretary Elvin Ivan Uy
2. Mr Mark Maca
3. Ms Joanna Astilla

Department of Education: Bureau of Education Assessment (BEA)

4. Dr Nelia V. Benito
5. Mr Abelardo Medes
6. Ms Gretchen Cordero
7. Ms Joy Pangilinan
8. Ms Bernadette Reyes
9. Mr Enrico Totañes
10. Ms Corazon Censon
11. Ms Armida Celesta
12. Ms Dana Valiente
13. Mr Junnie Salud

Department of Education: International Cooperation Office (ICO)

14. Dr Margarita Ballesteros
15. Ms Farida Bianca Velicaria
16. Mr Myron Gil Talosig

SEAMEO-INNOTECH

17. Dr Philip Purnell

UNICEF EAPRO

18. Dr Jim Ackers

UNICEF HQ

19. Dr Mathieu Brossard

UNICEF Manila

20. Ms Hideko Miyagawa
21. Dr Teresita Felipe

ACTRC

22. Dr Therese Bustos
23. Mr Louie Cagasan Jr.

E. Organizer

Bureau of Education Assessment (BEA), Department of Education, Philippines was the organizer of this meeting.

F. Next Steps

- 1) The Steering Committee members have been identified and waiting for approval from the highest level.
- 2) The Technical Team members have been identified and are also waiting for approval.
- 3) The work plan has been tentatively prepared by Department of Education based on the indicative timeline provided by ACER and it will be further updated.
- 4) Further discussion concerning the languages of the test administration, sample, and inclusion of students with special needs will be held within Department of Education and partners.
- 5) A discussion with the experts from ACER will be held to clarify some of the technical questions (An example is “what is a representative sample”).
- 6) A MOU will be developed to ensure the commitment of Department of Education in the implementation of SEA-PLM.

G. Role of SEAMEO Secretariat

During the meeting, SEAMEO Secretariat presented on the overview of SEA-PLM and how SEA-PLM will support regional and national efforts to improve quality education through assessment. The endorsement process, how SEA-PLM fits in the world picture, its unique features, the importance of the utilization of data and the expected outcomes, including capacity development, were also outlined.

SEAMEO Secretariat then provided an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the Technical Team for the implementation of the field trial in the country. Emphasis was made on the role of establishing clear communication lines and the role of a communication strategy.

In addition, SEAMEO Secretariat presented the key learning and areas of improvements based on the experience of the first SEA-PLM field trial in Brunei Darussalam. A brief overview on the different tasks and proposed timelines for the preparation to SEA-PLM was provided.

The SEA-PLM and SEAMEO 7 Priority Areas brochures were circulated to the meeting participants. ***The SEA-PLM powerpoint presentations and SEA-PLM brochure as attached.***

H. Pictures



SEAMEO Secretariat with Bureau of Education Assessment (BEA)



International Cooperation Office (ICO) with UNICEF EAPRO



The High Officials and Members of the Meeting