



Mission Report

Country Visit to Lao PDR during the field trial of the Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM)

**Lao PDR
30 April-11 May 2016**

A. SEAMEO Officials on Mission

- Ms Lauranne Beernaert, SEA-PLM Project Coordinator

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

Based on discussions with the technical institution supporting the development of the metric (ACER) and UNICEF EAPRO and the experience with the field trial in Brunei Darussalam that took place in November 2015, it was recognised that there was an immediate need for additional documentation of the first field trial. The main objective being to capture lessons learned and to ensure protocols as defined by ACER for the completion of the field trial are complied with. This work is to be carried out in collaboration between ACER and SEAMES with guidance from UNICEF EAPRO.

The support provided by the SEAMEO Secretariat will be as follows:

1. Representation of the SEAMEO Secretariat during this important step of the implementation of the SEA-PLM
2. Documentation of the exercise of the field-trial in Lao PDR with a focus on the challenges and lessons learned for the use of the other countries, as well as for ACER, UNICEF EAPRO and SEAMEO's reference.

Deliverable:

- Comprehensive trip report including the lessons learned and areas for improvement of the observations of the test administration in selected schools and of the different interviews and focus group discussions (to be developed by ACER with SEAMES and UNICEF EAPRO's input)

Important Note:

The information below related to the visit to the schools (name of the schools and provinces) is strictly confidential.

C. Participants

The regional team representative was composed by a representative from the SEAMEO Secretariat and a representative from ACER (Ms Jennie Chainey, Research Officer).

They met the following persons through the three activities below:

- 1) Observation of the test administration in selected schools and conduct of meetings with schools principals and school coordinators.
- 2) Interviews and focus group discussions with key persons/groups of persons from the MOES Lao PDR who were involved in the preparation/conduct/next steps of the field trial in the country.
- 3) Wrap-Up Meeting with high officials from the Research Institute of Educational Sciences (RIES) and UNICEF Lao PDR and discussion on the next steps.

Please refer to Section F for the detailed agenda of the visit in the country.

D. Organizer/s

The meetings were facilitated by the Lao PDR Technical Team and by UNICEF Lao PDR.

E. Role/Participation of SEAMEO Secretariat

Due to the pioneering work of the SEA-PLM and as Lao PDR was the second country to undertake the field trial, it was important for the SEAMEO Secretariat to be represented. SEAMES reaffirmed its support to the Technical Team and met a few high officials of the Ministry of Education and Sports Lao PDR. This was an opportunity to congratulate the different teams for the significant work done for the preparation of the field trial and reaffirm SEAMES' willingness to promote further collaboration and sharing of best practices among SEAMEO Member Countries.

F. Agenda of the visit to Lao PDR

The Regional Team split into two groups in order to document and monitor the implementation of the field trial in two different provinces.

1) Itinerary of Field Visit – Monitoring of the SEA-PLM Field Trial

Sohee Won, Education Specialist
Sengarun Budcharearn, Education Officer
Lauranne Beernaert, SEAMEO Secretariat

Date	Time	Activity	Approximate Duration
Sunday 1 May	10:20 – 11:35	Leave Vientiane Capital for Champasak (Pakse) by flight	1 hour 15 minutes
	13:00 - 14:00 – 15:00	Check-in Meet with Project Team (Overnight stay in Pakse)	1 hour
Monday 2 May	6:30 – 8:00	Travel to Setkhot School (Pakxong District)	1.5 hour
	8:00 – 12:00	Observe test administration and	4 hours

	12:00 – 13:30 13:30 – 15:00 15:00 – 16:30 16:30 – 17:30	students questionnaire session Lunch Interview with school coordinators etc. Travel back to hotel Wrap-up of the day (Overnight stay in Pakse)	1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1 hour
Tuesday 3 May	6:30 – 8:00 8:00 – 12:00 12:00 – 13:30 13:30 – 15:00 15:00 – 16:30 16:30 – 17:30	Travel to Setkhot School (Pakxong District) Observe parents questionnaire session and interview with some parents Lunch Interview with PESS, DESB and VEDC etc. Travel back to hotel Wrap-up of the day (Overnight stay in Pakse)	1.5 hour 4 hours 1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1 hour
Wednesday 4 May	7:00 – 8:00 8:00 – 12:00 12:00 – 1:30 13:30 – 15:00 15:00 – 16:00 16:00 – 17:00	Travel to Vangtao school (Phonthong District) Observe test administration etc. Lunch Interview with school coordinators Travel back to hotel Wrap-up of the day (Overnight stay in Pakse)	1 hour 4 hours 1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1 hour 1 hour
Thursday 5 May	7:00 – 8:00 8:00 – 12:00 12:00 – 1:30 1:30 – 15:00 15:00 – 16:00 16:00 – 17:00	Travel to Vangtao school (Phonthong District) Observe student questionnaire session etc. Lunch Interview with PESS and DESB Travel back to hotel Wrap-up of the day (Overnight stay in Pakse)	1 hour 4 hours 1.5 hours 1.5 hours 1 hour 1 hour
Friday 6 May	07:00 - 7:00 – 8:00 8:00 – 12:00 12:00 – 1:30 1:30 – 15:30 15:30 – 17:00	Check-out Travel to Vangtao school (Phonthong District) Observe parent questionnaire session and interview with some parents and VEDC Lunch Wrap-up of the day Travel to town / Rest	1 hour 4 hours 1.5 hours 2 hours 1.5 hours

	17:00 – 17:30 19:10 – 20:25	Travel to Airport Travel back to Vientiane Capital	0.5 hour 1 hour 15 minutes
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2) Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions

Lauranne Beernaert, SEA-PLM Project Coordinator, SEAMES
 Jennie Chainey, Research Officer, ACER

Key Informant Interviews and Focus Group Discussions took place on 9-11 May 2016 in Vientiane Capital to gain deeper insights on the preparations and work of the different teams and individuals involved. The methodology used for these interviews and discussions was developed by ACER.

G. Pictures

Due to confidentiality concerns that are crucial for the proper conduct of the field trial and the observation purpose of this trip, taking pictures was not permitted during all school observations and interviews/discussions.

The picture below was taken on the last day of the visit after the Wrap-Up meeting with RIES and UNICEF Lao PDR.

