
**Proposal on the Establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for
Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED) in Cambodia**

I. Purpose

1 This working paper is prepared by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MOEYS) of Cambodia to inform and seek advice from the SEAMEO Executive Committee Meeting 2016 of the Proposal on the Establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED) in Cambodia.

II. Background

2 At the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members held in Brunei Darussalam on 11-12 June 2014 with the theme “Promoting Entrepreneurship Education and Culture Within the Basic Education System”, it was highlighted that in this era of the 21st Century, driven by demands for a dynamic economy, promoting Entrepreneurship Education within the basic education is pertinent as Member Countries are faced with the challenges of producing a flexible and resilient work force well equipped with the necessary skills and key competencies.

3 Additionally, using the result of the SEAMEO Regional Study on Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Education Agenda (September 2013-October 2014) that utilized foresight and futures studies, seven (7) Priority Areas for Post-2015 Education Agenda have been identified by the Southeast Asian Education Ministers during the SEAMEO Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) which formed the SEAMEO College Module 1 and was conducted on 13 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. One of the 7 Priority Areas which is Priority Area 4 is promoting technical and vocational education and training (TVET) among learners and their parents, through more visible investments in the field, and improving relevance of the curricula to focus on creativity and innovation.

4 Consequently, a Workshop on Establishing a New SEAMEO Center in Cambodia was held on 27-29 July 2015 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. During the workshop, important and relevant documents were developed for the preparation on the establishment of a new SEAMEO Regional Centre on TED in Cambodia.

5 Subsequent to a great deal of in-Country consultations, MOEYS Cambodia finally submitted the letter of intent on the establishment of SEAMEO TED in Cambodia on 27 June 2016 as shown in [Appendix I](#).

6 In order to explore the feasibility of establishing a SEAMEO TED, a survey instrument (questionnaire) was developed and MoEYS Cambodia will conduct the survey on Technical Education in the Southeast Asian Countries. The questionnaire of the survey is attached as [Appendix II](#).

III. Scope of the Proposal

7 The proposed SEAMEO TED in Cambodia aims to cater the regional needs in promoting Technical Education and provide opportunities for cooperation in this field among SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members. The Centre will help strengthen the relationship and increase mutual understanding between educational researchers, practitioners, and policy makers of the region, in a spirit of mutual respect and partnership.

8 The proposed Centre is expected to:

- a) become a SEAMEO Regional Centre of Excellence for research and training on Technical Education and to serve as a regional forum for educational policy development on Technical Education;
- b) conduct cross-national comparative research on Technical Education; to explore definitions, concepts and practices of Technical Education from Southeast Asian research perspectives, particularly Southeast Asian contexts as compared to international contexts; addressing specific issues on Technical Education of the SEAMEO Member Countries;
- c) conduct training courses for educational personnel, trainers for teachers, and educational managers in the specialized area of Technical Education for the SEAMEO Member Countries;
- d) act as a clearing house, information centre, and think-tank for Governments of the Member Countries on research-based educational reforms especially across all sectors of education and training; and
- e) become a focal point for strengthening linkage between Southeast Asia and beyond.

9 The proposed key areas of SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED) will be as follows:

- a) In research activities, the Centre will concentrate its expertise on several key research areas, such as:
 - Policy and strategy for building Technical Education system;
 - Competences and skills for the technical education;
 - Competences and skills for Information Communication Technology (ICT);
 - The future of education and training systems: Cross-country comparisons;
 - Training and research need analysis in Technical Education;
 - Education and training, and human resource development;
 - Training and professionalization of teachers/educators;
 - Quality Assurance System to promote Technical Education regional harmonization for labour mobility;
 - Ensuring equitable access to Technical Education services;
 - 21st Century skills;
 - Public and private partnerships for Technical Education;
 - Financing models for Technical Education; and
 - Promotion system for Technical Education.

- b) Training activities of SEAMEO TED will focus on awareness raising, the best practices and capacity building for Technical Education personnel and educators in the region including research capacity building in Technical Education.
- c) As an information Centre, SEAMEO TED will collect and analyse data in order to produce reliable statistics on Technical Education across the region and beyond; publish and disseminate research results and establish database on Technical Education in the region.

10 In order to achieve the above mentioned aims and objectives, and in the effort to develop Technical Education in the region, SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED) shall undertake the following specific activities:

- a) Establish constant dialogues and maintain close cooperation with Ministries/Departments in charge of Technical Education policies particularly with the Ministries of Education in SEAMEO Members Countries;
- b) Introduce, publicise and promote the concept and the best practices of Technical Education in SEAMEO Member Countries in order to widen participation in education and training in employment and civic life, and to mitigate exclusion and further equal opportunities;
- c) Promoting industry demand competences to mitigate job mismatch;
- d) Conduct joint research and comparative studies on Technical Education as well as research for policy making at national and regional level;
- e) Disseminate knowledge by publishing books, international academic journals, and operating a website in English;
- f) Organise appropriate events serving the purpose of the Centre including high profile conferences, seminars and workshops, flexible and tailor-made training courses, Technical Education festivals, and promotion of the best practices;
- g) Supply where necessary, expert consultancy, advice, and support services upon request;
- h) Maintain close cooperation in the field of Technical Education with relevant regional and international organizations; and
- i) Undertake other activities as may be deemed necessary to realize the purpose of the Centre.

11 English language will be used as medium of instruction and communication for international programmes.

12 The organizational structure of the Centre will be in line with the SEAMEO organization. The supervisory body of the Centre is the Governing Board with a representative from each SEAMEO Member Country. The Centre will be headed by a Director supported by two heads of Divisions (Programme Division and Administration Division) and a number of professionals and administrative staffs. The posts of division heads and the posts of the professional staff may be offered to qualified candidates from the region while the posts of administrative staff will be held by personnel from the host country

(the Proposed Organizational Structure and role of each Division are shown in the [Appendix III](#)).

13 Funding for the proposed Centre will be from the Government of Cambodia which covers the operation of the Centre and development of programmes at the Centre. The Centre also plans to engage in income-generating activities such as organization of seminars, conferences, and provision of expert/consultancy services, as permitted by the Law and Regulations in Cambodia.

14 The proposed Centre will be located in Siem Reap. The precise location of the Centre will be decided by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport of Cambodia.

IV. Justification

15 Today, many developed countries are reshaping their human resource development strategies in response to new challenges in the globalised knowledge economy and society by promoting Technical Education systems as an essential national policy for maintaining and increasing their regional and global competitive advantage. Technical Education is often advocated as a way to achieve socio-economic development and as a tool for promoting the knowledge and skill-based society.

16 It was emphasized at the 4th Annual Forum for High Officials of Basic Education of SEAMEO Member Countries and Associate Members held in Brunei Darussalam on 11-12 June 2014 with the theme “Promoting Entrepreneurship Education and Culture Within the Basic Education System” that in this era of the 21st Century, driven by demands for a dynamic economy, promoting Entrepreneurship Education within the basic education is pertinent as Member Countries are faced with the challenges of producing a flexible and resilient work force well equipped with the necessary skills and key competencies.

17 Also, at the SEAMEO Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) which formed the SEAMEO College Module 1 and was conducted on 13 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, seven (7) Priority Areas for Post-2015 Education Agenda have been identified by the Southeast Asian Education Ministers. SEAMEO College is a flagship project of SEAMEO that focuses on discussion of forward-looking issues among four key groups of leaders and stakeholders in Southeast Asia in support of ASEAN Community. These groups include education ministers, high-level education officials, education practitioners, and youth leaders.

18 The SDEM furthermore pointed out the Priority Area 4 that is promoting TVET among learners and their parents, through more visible investments in the field, and improving relevance of the curricula to focus on creativity and innovation. The population may be enhanced through experience-based policy, and demonstrated and visible employability of graduates with multiple pathways for continuing training. Additionally, TVET need not be regarded as a single, stand-alone mechanism but a pathway linked with higher education and life-long learning. TVET in the region can also be enhanced through the development of a regional policy framework for labour, skill and learner mobility. Consequently, it is obvious benefits to establish a TVET Centre in the Southeast Asia region to create a network of research institutes and experts that will contribute to the improvement of knowledge and skill production, statistics collection and data analysis for research-based policy making and research-informed practices.

19 The Government of Cambodia has shown strong commitment on the development of Technical Education in Cambodia and expressed its support to the conduct of the feasibility study and the establishment of a SEAMEO Regional Centre on TED in Cambodia for the promotion of Technical Education in Southeast Asia and beyond. Moreover, the proposed SEAMEO Regional Centre will contribute significantly to promoting Technical Education in the Southeast Asia and beyond. The establishment of the proposed SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education signifies the commitment of SEAMEO to embrace the SEAMEO Post-2015 Education Agenda.

20 As already mentioned, the proposed SEAMEO Regional Centre on TED will be able to open opportunities for collaboration on promoting the various areas of Technical Education in the region and beyond.

V. Implication

21 The establishment of the proposed Centre:

- a) reflects SEAMEO's commitment and initiatives to facilitate the education provision and the development of research-based knowledge in the field of Technical Education in the region;
- b) contributes to an increased number of education personnel and trained support personnel in the field of Technical Education in the region;
- c) provides a platform for SEAMEO to strengthen its networks with international related bodies and organisations in the field of Technical Education; and
- d) has no implications on SEAMEO Member Countries and the Secretariat except for attending the Governing Board Meeting (GBM).

VI. Requested Advice of the SEAMEO Executive Committee Meeting 2016

22 The SEAMEO Executive Committee Meeting 2016 takes note and provides advice of the proposal on the Establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED).