



## Mission Report

### **SEAMEO SEARCA 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration & Meeting at the Thai Embassy on the Proposed AgriMuseum and Learning Centre**

24-25, 28 November 2016  
SEAMEO SEARCA, Los Banos & Manila, Philippines

#### **A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission**

1. Tinsiri Siribodhi

#### **B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity**

1. SEAMEO Regional Centre on Graduate Study and Research on Agriculture (SEAMEO SEARCA) was established in 1966. SEAMEO SEARCA celebrated its Golden Anniversary with series of activities such as the conferment of the 5<sup>th</sup> Dioscoro L. Umali Achievement Award (Umali Award), the conferment of the Outstanding SEAMEO SEARCA Alumni Award (OSSA) and a Special Talk by Outstanding Alumni.
2. SEAMEO SEARCA is planning to set up the AgriMuseum and Learning Centres on Agriculture and Rural Development in Los Banos. The concept was also presented at the HOM2016 in November. SEAMEO SEARCA would like to contribute the AgriMuseum to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand in recognition of his work in agriculture and rural development in Southeast Asia. SEAMEO SEARCA has invited me to join them in a meeting with the Royal Thai Embassy in Manila to explore collaboration on the AgriMuseum.

#### **Objective:**

1. To represent SEAMEO Secretariat at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
2. To join Dr. Gil Saguiguit and his team for a meeting at the Royal Thai Embassy in Manila.

#### **C. Participants**

1. At the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in Los Banos, the participants were SEAMEO SEARCA Alumni; representatives from the Embassy of Cambodia and Timor Leste; guests and representatives from SEAMEO Units (SEAMEO Tropmed Network and SEAMES)
2. At the Royal Thai Embassy: Dr. Gil Saguiguit, Dr. Maria Cadiz, and Tinsiri Siribodhi

#### **D. Organizer/s**

1. SEAMEO SEARCA

#### **E. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points**

1. On 24 November, the 5<sup>th</sup> Umali Award for the achievement in agriculture and development was given to Mr. Tin Htut Oo from Myanmar. The award was set up under the name of Dr. Dioscoro L. Umali, the former SEAMEO SEARCA Centre Director and a founder of SEAMEO SEARCA. Mr. Tin Htut Oo, the recipient of the 2015 Umali Award is currently the Chairman of the Centre for Economic and Social Development in Myanmar.
2. On 25 November (am), an Outstanding SEARCA Scholarship Alumni (OSSA) Award was conferred to 11 SEAMEO SEARCA Outstanding alumni in the area of teaching,

research and advocacy. These outstanding alumni are from, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand and Timor Leste for their excellent work.

3. On 25 November (pm), a Special Talk was given by two outstanding alumni who received an OSSA award. Dr. Musliar Kasim from Indonesia and Dr. Delfin J. Ganapin Jr. from Philippines.
4. On 28 November, Dr. Gil Saguitgit, Dr. Maria Cadiz and myself met with the Minister and Deputy Chief of Mission, Royal Thai Embassy to explore collaboration and invite the Royal Thai Embassy to join the project AgriMuseum to pay tribute to HM King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand in recognition of HM work in rural development and agriculture in Southeast Asia.
5. At the meeting at the Thai Embassy, it was discussed and agreed that the proposed two options on the tribute to HM in the project are.
  - a. Naming the AgriMuseum under HM Majesty King Bhumibol
  - b. Dedicate a section/ a room in the AgriMusuem for HM King Bhumibol and HM sufficiency economy theory.
6. The Result of the Meeting is that the Thai Embassy invited SEAMEO SEARCA to give a presentation to the Thai Business Community on Dec 2 to further explore collaboration with the Thai Business Community to join the project. The Thai Embassy requested SEAMEO SEARCA to submit a concept note and they will send to the main officer in Bangkok for further progress and consideration.

#### **F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO**

1. Represented SEAMEO Secretariat at the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration
2. Gave a presentation about SEAMEO and assisted SEAMEO SEARCA in seeking collaboration with the Royal Thai Embassy on the AgriMusuem project.

#### **G. Follow-up Actions Needed**

1. SEAMEO SEARCA to prepare a concept note to submit to the Royal Thai Embassy.
2. SEAMEO SEARCA to give a presentation to the Thai Private Sector Community at the Resident of the Thai Ambassador on December 2, 2016.
3. SEAMES to help set up a meeting for SEAMEO SEARCA to meet with the SEAMEC President and Minister of Education, Thailand to present to him the project and seek for his advice. The tentative date is during the 2 week of January 2016. (c/o Pimratchada as a focal person with the SEAMEC president)

#### **H. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs**

Info. about the AgriMusuem, Programmes (attached) and some pictures



The recipient of the 5<sup>th</sup> Umali Award, Mr. Tin Htut Oo, Myanmar



11 Recipients of the Outstanding SEARCA Scholarship Alumni Award (OSSA)