



Mission Report

Mission of the SEAMEC President in Vientiane, Lao PDR And SEAMEO Workshop on the Education Agenda 27-28 February 2017

Prepared by

**Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela, Deputy Director for Programme and Development
Ms Pimratcha Patanasuthikul, Executive Secretary**

A. SEAMEO Officials and Staff Member on Mission

1. Dr Ethel Agnes P Valenzuela
Deputy Director for Programme and Development
2. Ms Pimratchada Patanasuthikul, Executive Secretary

B. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

1. SEAMEO Secretariat is the Executive arm of the council and the headquarter of the organization
2. SEAMES implements policies and executes programmes adopted by the council. It also plans and studies the feasibility of regional education project proposal
It convenes conferences; seminar and prepares agenda and working papers for council meeting.
3. On a biannual basis, SEAMEO Council selects its President and conducts dialogue with the other Ministers on a regular basis. For 2017, the SEAMEO Council President Thailand Minister of Education Dr Teerakiat visited Vientiane Laos to discuss areas of cooperation with the Lao PDR Minister of Education. The SEAMEO Secretariat provided support to the visit on Feb 27, 2017.
4. ON the second day, the Secretariat conducted a workshop to complete the Education Agenda and gather the latest inputs from MOES, Lao PDR

C. Participants

- The SEAMEC President and delegation from BIC, MOE, Thailand
- SEAMES DDPD and Executive Secretary

D. Organizer/s

- MOE, Thailand

- MOES, Lao PDR

E. Highlights of the Activity/Summary Points

1. Day 1- (Feb 27)-

The SEAMEC President's Visit in Lao PDR has been fruitful and it forges some cooperation with the Lao PDR Minister of Education.

The discussions centered around the ff:

- Thailand Scholarship to Laos- the Minister offered scholarship for English using its Thai Booth Camp Programme. Lao has to sponsor transportation for the students and teachers who will join the booth camp
- There were information sharing on the teacher salaries and benefits. Generally the Thai teachers have higher salary. The concern of Lao is on teacher items as they have limited items but the community also provide support for the volunteer and community or village support for teachers like housing and meals.
- Lao will conduct survey about teacher volunteers esp in the areas of math Physics and English. Lao teachers are also self-sufficient and they use resources that they have and not go into loan system. The Village community support system is also effective for Laos.
- English language is already compulsory starting Grade 3 and for pre-primary is mother tongue.
- Thai Minister shared that Thai teachers should teach and they also identify teachers who can be a Master teacher.
- Lao would like to send teachers to booth camp esp from Grade 3 up.
- Thai minister said that the number of scholarship will be provided later after consulting with the Thailand MOE
- Pisa=- Thai shared that Brunei will also join PISA in 2018 and the reading will be the focus of testing.

The SEAMEC President likewise visited a secondary school and a meeting with the National University of Laos officials. The meeting talked about the possibility of cooperation between Thai Universities and Lao universities. NUL said they have signed about 200 MOUs/MOAs with different universities and these have to be reviewed.

2. Day 2 (Feb 28) SEAMEO Workshop with MOE on Education Agenda

SEAMEO Secretariat conducted the workshop on the Education Agenda from 9 to 11 am at MOES.

- The submission of LAO PDR to SEAMES was reviewed and updated.
- LAO officials identified activities which were already completed and were deleted
- Due to the forthcoming education reform some names or officials of the MOES might change so LAO requested to resubmit ot SEAMES its form by 15th of March.

F. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. SEAMEO Secretariat team assisted the SEAMEC President in his tour of duty to Lao PDR.

G. Follow-up Actions Needed

1. Coordinate the bilateral progress of activities discussed by Thailand and Laos.
2. Follow up the complete and updated 3-year programme for the education agenda by Lao PDR to SEAMES.

H. Photos



I. Additional Documents and References

- Lao updated 3-year Programme of Cooperation
- Schedule of Activities for the SEAMEC President's Visit