



Mission Report

Visit to Community Education Development (CED) Regional SEMEO Centre

Date: 12-14 February 2018

Venue: SEAMEO Community Development Centre (CED), Lao PDR

Prepared by

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A. Background, Description and Objectives of the Activity

The purpose of the mission was to follow up with CED on the progress of the centre, in particular, the following points:

1. The setting up of the CED centre, staffing, administrative issues and its official launch.
2. To meet with the relevant officials at the Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR to expedite the process of completing the premises of the CED centre.
3. To meet with potential donors and/or collaborators

B. Organizer/s

SEAMEO CED

C. Highlight of the Activity/Summary Points

1. Highlight 1: The construction of SEAMEO CED centre is near its completion except for the fences, which need to be added. It is located at the National University of Lao PDR (NUOL) at Don Dok District, Vientiane.
2. Highlight 2: In addition to the Centre Director, Dr Silinthone, three staff have joined CED. They are Ms Sheena Phothisane, Administration Officer, Ms Xayyaseng Latanavong, International Relations Officer and Mr Souvanh Inthavong, IT Officer. When CED receives external funding, they will hire additional staff as MOEC is currently downsizing the number of staff throughout the country. When the fences are complete, full office equipment will be purchased because by then, the MOEC will recruit a security guard to look after the office properties.
3. Highlight 3: The meeting with KOICA was to follow up on the project concept note submitted last September. This proposal is about strengthening the capacity of Lao traditional textile weavers to improve their incomes. KOICA gave us a tip that the proponent of the proposal, namely, MOES should prioritise the proposal from CED, otherwise KOICA's selection committee will make their own selection based on their criteria. Currently, KOICA's mandate is to fund projects related to protection of disadvantaged people, peace (drug and crime prevention) and prosperity (sustainable development) such as green movement, climate change and renewable energy. Its small-scaled project is around US\$15 million.
4. Highlight 4: KOICA introduced its new programme to strengthen the HR capacities of its partners. They have a one year programme to send experts and/or volunteers

to help its partners.

5. Highlight 5: The meeting with the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) was to seek potential funding for a research in the field of gender equality on agricultural based activities. The representative of ACIAR mentioned that they channeled their funding through the National Agriculture and Forestry (NAFI) of Lao PDR. It was recommended that CED contact DFAT directly to inquire more about its funding priorities.
6. Highlight 6: The meeting with DVV was to follow up on the contact of UIL, Hamburg, in which the director for the centre is not recruited. DVV suggested that CED contact the representative of UIL in Bangkok directly.
7. Highlight 7: The meeting with Oxfam was to find out the mandate of Oxfam for supporting projects related to sustainability development.

D. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. SEAMEO Secretariat's DDAC made a presentation on who SEAMES is to the potential donors and/or collaborators followed by the presentation of Dr Silinthone about SEAMEO CED and its future activities.
2. SEAMEO Secretariat's DDPD discussed with the representatives of MOES to expedite the process of completing the construction of the office fences as well as the official launch of the centre. It was expected to be launched by June of this year and the concept note ready by March.

E. Side Meeting/s

N.A.

F. Follow-up Actions Needed

1. SEAMES will follow up on the concept note on the official launch of the centre.
2. SEAMES will connect CED with UIL in Bangkok for possible collaboration.
3. SEAMES will contact the representatives of KOICA to inquire about the mechanism to seek experts or volunteers to help out with the work of SEAMES and other regional SEAMEO centres.

G. Appendices/Related Conference Materials and Outputs

Agenda of the mission

H. Photos



CED building



CED office



CED premises with the Southeast Asian flag



Meeting with the representatives of the Ministry of Education, Loa PDR



Meeting with representatives of KOICA