



## **Mission Report**

### **SEAMEO INNOTECH 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY Celebration**

January 23, 2020  
Philippines

Prepared by  
Dr Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat

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

1. Dr Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, Director

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

The SEAMEO Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH) is one of three SEAMEO regional centers hosted by the Government of the Philippines (GOP). SEAMEO INNOTECH was established in January 1970 following the SEAMEO Council's approval of its five-year plan and interim plan of operations. Its headquarters was first set up at the SEAMEO Secretariat headquarters in Thailand. It was then moved to Singapore and later on to Vietnam until it was moved back to Thailand in 1975.

On July 1, 1976 a memorandum of agreement was signed between the GOP and SEAMEO for the temporary hosting of SEAMEO INNOTECH in the Philippines. On July 1, 1981, the GOP accepted the formal request of the SEAMEO Council for the Philippines to permanently host SEAMEO INNOTECH. The Center is now located within the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

On January 23, SEAMEO INNOTECH celebrated their Anniversary with all education officials, regional representatives and guests.

#### **C. Organizer/s**

- SEAMEO INNOTECH

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

- **Message from SEAMEO Secretariat Director**
- **Message from Minister/Secretary of Education**
- **Message from partners (Metrobank Foundation and GIZ)**

## E. Role/Participation of SEAMEO

1. SEAMEO Director presented the role SEAMEO INNOTECH played in the development of member countries and the host country as well.
2. SEAMES Director took part in the INNOTECH staff celebration on January 24, 2020

## F. PHOTOS OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



SEAMEO Secretariat Director with the Ministers from the Philippines since 1980's to 2020



Giving SEAMEO tokens to host country and INNOTECH Director Dr Ramon Bacani with RIHED Director and former SEAMES Director De Jesus (2005-2007) and SEARCA Director Dr Glenn Gregorio

## **SEAMEO INNOTECH 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

### **Congratulatory Speech Dr Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela Director, SEAMEO Secretariat**

Your Excellencies, Ministers of Education of the Philippines

Honorable Dr Ramon C. Bacani, Director of SEAMEO INNOTECH

Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

Good Evening, Magandang Gabi.

May I begin by expressing my heartfelt congratulations to Dr Ramon C Bacani and everyone at SEAMEO INNOTECH on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Centre's founding.

Fifty years is a milestone. It is an occasion to celebrate an opportunity to look back momentarily but a golden ticket to chart the path forward.

I am delighted to be welcoming you here this evening on behalf of SEAMEO and to pay tribute to SEAMEO INNOTECH for their Golden Jubilee celebration.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I think you will agree with me that, in an average human being's relatively brief lifespan, fifty years usually marks a time when one begins to slow down a bit, scaling back on one's activities and commitments.

But from everything I've seen over the years, SEAMEO INNOTECH is fifty-years young, and, only just beginning to flex its wings, dreaming of an even brighter future, energetically moving forward, building on your illustrious history of academic and institutional achievements.

Ladies and gentlemen,

An outstanding regional organization cannot be built overnight. I know that during the past fifty years, the SEAMEO INNOTECH's place as the leading institution of developing innovative and technology-based solutions in education was secured through the hard work and selfless devotion of many people. Throughout its first fifty years, the SEAMEO INNOTECH can be proud of its numerous accomplishments. SEAMEO Secretariat takes note of some of these achievements on learning and training development; flexible learning solutions; instructional design and materials development; educational innovation as well as educational research. The Centre was also fortunate to have had visionary leadership of former Directors Erlinda C Pefianco, Minda C Sutaria, Dolores F Hernandez, and Liceria B Soriano among others. Over the past ten years, Director Dr Ramon C Bacani has carried on this illustrious tradition of excellence and leadership of the Centre.

Ladies and gentlemen,

SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres today face multi-faceted demands. One of the most important of these is to become more internationalized, more open to currents beyond our borders, and to become more flexible to take advantage of the opportunities offered by establishing close relationships with top

institutions around the world. It is my sincere hope that we will work together not only among SEAMEO family but can come along with experts from civil society even more closely in the years ahead to debate issues that we will confront in the next century for the benefit of not only Southeast Asian region, but for the good of the global community.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On this opportunity, I also wish to extend to you my heartiest congratulations to SEAMEO INNOTECH. I am truly honoured being here today to join the celebrations.

Dr Ramon, my fellow friends, colleagues, we have a lot of work to do. We will also be challenged by new, as yet unforeseen concerns, threats, and scourges that will arise in the next century. The people in Southeast Asia are relying on us to convert our goodwill and our good intentions into concrete and noticeable progress in education innovation along with the SEAMEO INNOTECH's vision a better future for every learner in Southeast Asia. Let us pursue our common objectives and individual goals with diligence and creativity.

Once again, congratulation! And I look forward to returning to this Centre for the Centennial Celebration.

Thank you. Maraming Salamat.