



# **Viet Nam Initiative:**

## **Establishing SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning in Vietnam**

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**Vietnam Forum on Lifelong Learning: Building a Learning Society**

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# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- Many developed countries are promoting LLL for maintaining and increasing their regional and global competitive advantage.
- LLL is the guiding principle for educational strategies laid down by the European Commission, OECD and UNESCO.

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- In countries with high illiteracy rate, focus have been on developing basic literacy and numeracy, and LLL initiatives have focused on practical knowledge and skills.
- In countries with higher literacy rate, but still low educational level, focus in LLL is on maintaining literacy and supplementing basic educational skills.
- In countries with universal basic education, focus in LLL may be on personal development, preparing learners for tertiary education, improving business and marketing capabilities, etc.

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- Lifelong learning is an increasing trend, also in Asia. Many countries, particularly in the ASEAN region, have made efforts to develop their lifelong learning policies. In Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam, lifelong learning has been promoted through legislation or through government policies that have implied major changes to the education systems.

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- The Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) Lifelong Learning Conference, held in Vietnam in October 2009, proposed ASEAN Education Ministers to include lifelong learning as an item on the agenda at ASEAN summits and to raise common concerns and voice at regional level. The conference recommended that Vietnam set up a lifelong learning centre for the region that would serve as a bridge to the European community.

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- The Conference identified obvious benefits to establish a Lifelong Learning Research Centre in the ASEAN region to create a network of research institutes and experts that will contribute to the improvement of knowledge production, statistics collection and data analysis for research-based policy making and research-informed practices.

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

SEAMEO is the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, established in 1965 to promote cooperation in education, science and culture. Member Countries are:



Brunei Darussalam



Cambodia



Indonesia



Lao PDR



Malaysia



Myanmar



Philippines



Singapore



Thailand



Timor-Leste



SR of Vietnam



# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

Associate Member Countries are:



**Australia**



**Germany**



**Spain**



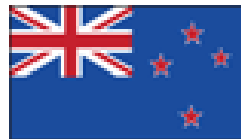
**Canada**



**Netherlands**



**France**



**New Zealand**


# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- SEAMEO has established 19 Regional Centres, which are specialist institutions that undertake training and research programs in various fields of education, science and culture, for example:

\*  SEAMEO RELC, in Language Teaching;

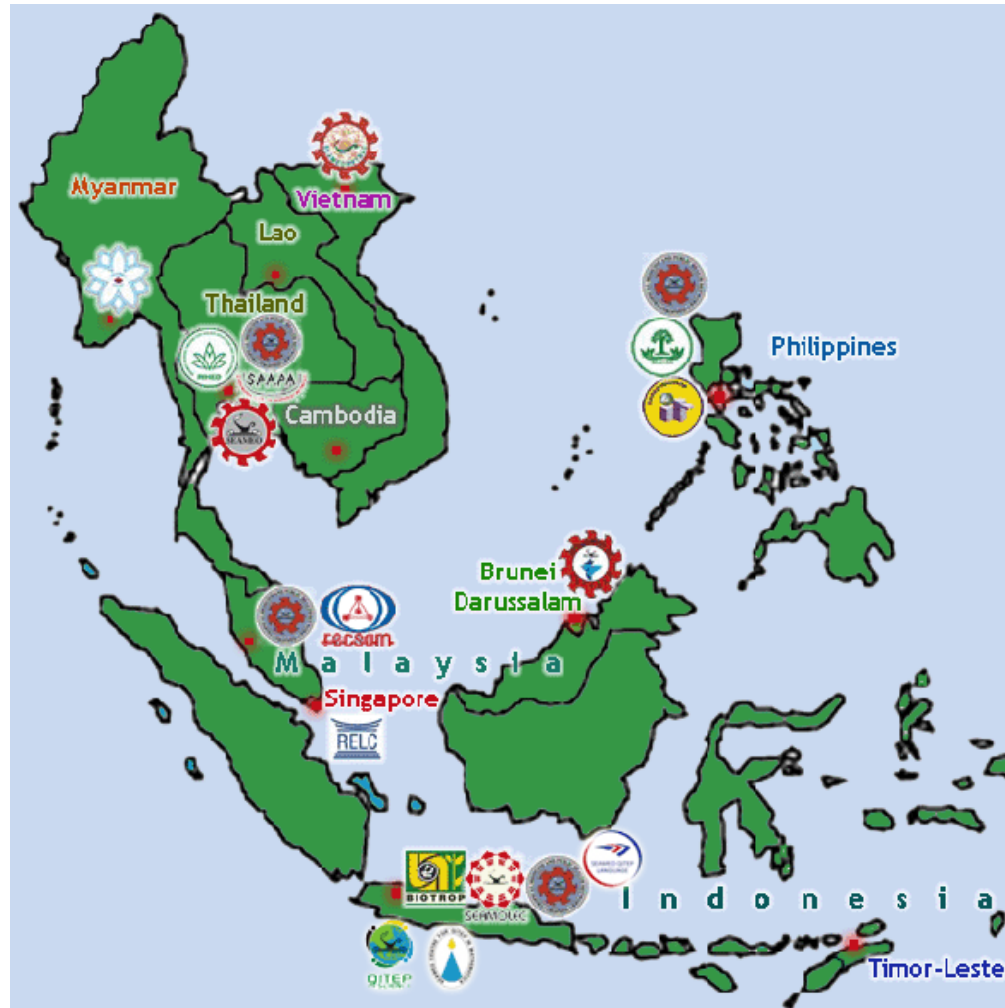
\*  SEAMEO QITEP, in Quality Improvement of  
Teachers and Education Personnel;

\*  SEAMEO TROPMED, in Tropical Medicine and  
Public Health;

\*  SEAMEO RETRAC, in educational management. .

# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

The SEAMEO has 19 specialist institutions that undertake training and research programs in various fields of education, science, and culture. Each Regional Centre has a Governing Board composed of senior education officials from each SEAMEO Member Country. The Governing Board reviews the Centres' operations and budget and sets their policies and programmes.



# Why SEAMEO Centre on LLL?

- A centre for lifelong learning is an area of expertise of SEAMEO has not yet been established.

# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- The Government of Vietnam has shown strong commitment and expressed its support to the establishment of a SEAMEO Regional Centre on LLL in Vietnam for the promotion of LLL in Southeast Asia and beyond.
- In a Memorandum of Understanding of Educational Cooperation signed in December 2010 between MOET Vietnam and the MOE of Denmark, the area of LLL is stated as a key area of cooperation, especially mentioning support for establishing and running the SEAMEO Regional Centre on LLL.

# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- The Vietnam Institute of Educational Sciences (VNIES), which has been assigned by the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam to prepare the proposal for the establishment of the proposed Centre, has furthermore signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Danish School of Education, Aarhus University, which also hosts the secretariat of the ASEM Education and Research Hub for Lifelong Learning (ASEM LLL Hub)..

# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- At the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference held in January 2010 in the Philippines, the future expansion of SEAMEO Centres and areas of study were raised and Vietnam highlighted the need for establishing a SEAMEO Regional Centre specialized in lifelong learning. The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam presented a concept paper on establishing the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning and expressed its willingness to take the initiative to establish and host the proposed centre.

# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- The Council acknowledged the concept paper presented by MOET, Vietnam, and approved the request by Vietnam to conduct a feasibility study and develop a proposal on establishing a SEAMEO Regional Centre for lifelong learning in Vietnam.
- A survey instrument was developed and sent to all SEAMEO Member Countries in October 2010. Submission date for responses was 5 November 2010. But only few responses are received yet.
- In addition, a desk study on LLL in the SEAMEO Member Countries has been conducted.



# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- The 33rd SEAMEO High Officials Meeting, In-Camera Session (November 2010, in Bangkok) endorsed the Proposal on the Establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning in Vietnam to be presented to the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference for approval (late January 2011, in Brunei).

# Strong Commitment of Viet Nam to LLL and SEAMEO

- ❑ Viet Nam was admitted to SEAMEO in 1992
- ❑ In 1997 Viet Nam established its first Seameo Center in Viet Nam: SEAMEO Regional Training Center – Catering for Educational Management – in HCM City.
- ❑ In 2012 it is expected that there will be the second Semeo Center in Viet Nam: SEAMEO Regional Center on LLL– Catering for LLL – in Hanoi.

# Scope

- ° **The aims of the proposed Centre is to**
  - ❑ Cater for the regional needs in promoting LLL;
  - ❑ Provide opportunities for cooperation in the field of LLL among SEAMEO Member and Associate Member Countries;
  - ❑ Strengthen the relationship and increase mutual understanding between educational researchers, practitioners, and policy makers of the region.

# Scope

**The proposed Centre is expected to**

- ❑ become a Centre of Excellence for research, training and information on LLL;
- ❑ explore definitions, concepts and practices of LLL from Asian perspectives;
- ❑ conduct training courses for educational personnel, trainers for teachers, and educational managers;

# Scope

**The proposed Centre is expected to (*cont'*):**

- ❑ act as an information centre and think-tank for governments of the Member Countries on research-based educational reforms, especially across all sectors of post-compulsory education and training;
- ❑ become a focal point for strengthening linkage between Southeast Asia, Asia and Europe in promoting lifelong learning.

# Scope

## Key areas:

- a) In research activities, SEAMEO Regional Centre on LLL will conduct cross-national comparative research on LLL;
- b) In training activities, the Centre will focus on awareness raising and capacity building;
- c) As an Information Centre, the Centre will collect and analyse data in order to produce reliable statistics on LLL across the region and beyond.

# Scope

## ° Specific Activities:

- a) Establish dialogues with ministries/departments in charge of LLL policies;
- b) introduce, publicise and promote good practices of LLL in Member Countries in order to widen participation in education and training in employment and civic life, and to combat exclusion and further equal opportunities;

# Scope

## **Specific Activities** *(Cont'd)*:

- c) conduct joint research and comparative studies on LLL, at national and regional level;
- d) disseminate knowledge by publishing books, international academic journals and operating a website in English;
- e) organise appropriate events serving the purpose of the Centre, including high profile conferences, seminars and workshops, and tailor-made training courses;



# Scope

## **Specific activities** *(cont'd)*

- f) facilitate, where necessary, policy learning between governments of Member Countries;
- g) supply expert consultancy, advice and support services on request;
- h) maintain close cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations;
- i) undertake other activities as may be deemed necessary to realize the purpose of the Centre.

# Scope

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

The organizational structure of the Centre will be in line with the SEAMEO organization.

# Scope

Funding for the proposed Centre will be from the Government of Vietnam which covers the operation of the Centre and development of programmes at the Centre.

The proposed Centre will be located in Hanoi, Vietnam.

# Implication

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 lifelong learning in the region;
- b) contributes to an increased number of education personnel and trained support personnel in the field of lifelong learning in the region;
- c) provides a platform for SEAMEO to strengthen its networks internationally in the field of lifelong learning.



**Thank you!**