



## SEAMEO News Clipping

**Headline:** Thailand to reward top teachers in region

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## Bangkok Post The world's window on Thailand

HANOI : Thailand plans to present Princess Maha Chakri Awards to outstanding teachers from across the region when it hosts the 48th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference in 2015.

The announcement was made by Education Minister Phongthep Thepkanchana during the 47th Council Conference in Hanoi, which opened on Tuesday and closes today.

Mr Phongthep was yesterday elected SEAMEO vice-chairman.

The presentation of the awards will reflect Thailand's desire to play a key role in improving the quality of education in the region, he said.

The awards commemorate HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn's birthday on April 2 and mark her contribution to education in Thailand, he said.

The princess has launched several projects over the years to help improve the quality of education and lives of children in remote areas, including those at Border Patrol Police schools.

Mr Phongthep told the conference quality is at the heart of education and that all people, including the disadvantaged, the disabled and minority groups, should be given access to it.

He called on delegates, who hail from all areas of the education sector, to pay attention to the development of quality education in their own countries.

The SEAMEO Council Conference, which is held every two years, is the summit of all SEAMEO meetings.

It is the assembly of the SEAMEO Council, which is the organization's governing body and comprises the 11 education ministers of SEAMEO member countries.

The SEAMEO Council determines the general policies and strategic directions of the organisation.

The United Kingdom was officially approved as the 8th associate member of the SEAMEO yesterday. The country has offered to help improve education and human resources in the region.

Truong Tan Sang, president of Vietnam, said he is confident the UK's participation will contribute to the development of SEAMEO.

Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training in Vietnam, said he hopes the UK will make a great contribution to the development of education, science and culture in Southeast Asia.

SEAMEO also yesterday established a new regional centre, the "SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning". The facility is based in Ho Chi Minh City and will specialise in research and training on lifelong learning as a foundation for educational policy development.

The SEAMEO College, financially supported by the Asian Development Bank, was also launched during the conference.

Brunei Education Minister Pehin Abu Bakar Apong said the college will provide a wider avenue of specialised sharing and learning for education leaders and high officials.