



## SEAMEO STATEMENT

### SEAMEO'S STRATEGIC COLLABORATION TOWARDS REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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In pursuance of the mission and goals of SEAMEO, we, the Ministers of Education of Southeast Asia, gathered here in Hanoi, Vietnam at the 47<sup>th</sup> Conference of the SEAMEO Council, agreed on the need for SEAMEO to build on its strategic partnerships and amalgamate the SEAMEO Regional Centres' expertise and resources to help SEAMEO Member Countries attain their respective national education goals and at the same time contribute to the achievement of regional development goals.

SEAMEO recognizes that the ever-changing labour market needs and fast-paced global development pose enormous challenges for Southeast Asia to sustain and upgrade the competitiveness of its human resources.

In response, SEAMEO firmly believes that regional strategies should be aimed at benefitting individual member countries while at the same time seamlessly achieve integration for regional growth.

Capitalizing on its 47 solid years of experience on regional cooperation since 1965, SEAMEO will further strategic alliances, regional collaboration, and open dialogues towards a more integrated, developed and dynamic Southeast Asia.

**FIRST**, SEAMEO will create and implement innovative, sustainable and inclusive programmes addressing emergent, trans-boundary and cross-cutting regional issues in support of the Golden SEAMEO vision. SEAMEO will introduce pioneering platforms for methodological dialogues among education leaders to generate effective policies and foresight-based education solutions. Such platforms will be geared towards narrowing the disparities within the region.

**SECOND**, SEAMEO will work with national governments and regional and international development partners to further expand its initiatives on basic education thus fast tracking the attainment of national and regional educational goals set in Education for All (EFA) and the Millennium Development Goals (MDG). SEAMEO will utilize the concept of a world without borders to foster virtual collaborations and seamless knowledge mobility.

**THIRD**, SEAMEO will work with ASEAN to address the non-comparability of academic and professional accreditation standards and promote robust standards across the region by the establishment of a National Qualification Framework that embodies minimum competencies, indicators and expectations at all levels of education. SEAMEO will support the ASEAN University Network and will endeavour to enhance student and professional exchanges within and outside Southeast Asia. Moreover it will encourage the setting up of mechanisms to facilitate sharing of information between and among member countries.

**FOURTH**, SEAMEO will promote its quality trademark to earn the trust of its clientele, attract wider support from partners, and further enhance its regional and international visibility. It will capacitate the SEAMEO Regional Centres on forward-looking competencies to be able to anticipate future trends and design appropriate programmes accordingly. SEAMEO Regional Centres will share their expertise and pool together their resources to contribute exponentially to human resource development in the region.

**FIFTH**, SEAMEO will work in collaboration with ASEAN on jointly addressing issues of mutual concern. SEAMEO and ASEAN will encourage support and match joint initiatives with the goals and priorities of Dialogue Partners. SEAMEO Regional Centres shall play key roles in realizing SEAMEO-ASEAN shared regional goals.

**LASTLY**, in contributing to a more dynamic, sustainable and integrated Southeast Asian community, SEAMEO will be guided by its core values exemplifying respect for cultural diversity, environmental responsibility and good citizenship in carrying out its strategic collaborations.

We, therefore, agreed to adopt the SEAMEO Statement and the regional strategies to enhance SEAMEO's collaboration on education, science and culture to contribute to the growth of the Southeast Asian region.

Signed in Hanoi, Vietnam, on the Nineteenth Day of March, in the Year Twenty Thirteen.

**H E Pehin Abu Bakar Apong**

Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam and  
President, SEAMEO Council

**H E Dr Im Sethy**

Minister of Education, Youth and Sports,  
Cambodia

**H E Prof Dr Muhammad Nuh**

Minister of Education and Culture, Indonesia

**H E Dr Phankham Viphavanh**

Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR

**H E Tan Sri Haji Muhyiddin bin Yassin**

Minister of Education, Malaysia

**H E Prof Dr Mya Aye**

Minister for Education, Myanmar

**H E Br Armin A Luistro FSC**

Secretary of Education, Philippines

**H E Mr Heng Swee Keat**

Minister for Education, Singapore

**H E Mr Phongthep Thepkanjana**

Minister of Education, Thailand

**H E Mr Bendito dos Santos Freitas**

Minister of Education, Timor Leste

**H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan**

Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam