

# *The Launch of SEAMEO College*

20 March 2013, 1115-1200 hrs  
Grand Ballroom, Daewoo Hotel, Hanoi, Vietnam

## **Introduction on SEAMEO College**

by H E Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam  
and SEAMEO Council President

## **Suggested Talking Points**

1. H E Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam
2. Other Ministers and Heads of Delegations of SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Member Countries and Affiliate Members
3. Mr Shigeharu Kato, Director General for International Affairs, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports and Technology, Japan
4. Prof Dr Yongyuth Yuthavong, Former Minister of Science and Technology, Thailand
5. Dr Wiyata Jeradechakul, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat
6. Members of the Diplomatic Corps, SEAMEO Centre Directors, representatives of various international organizations, members of the media
7. Excellencies, Distinguished Guests
8. Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning.

1 As President of the SEAMEO Council, I am very pleased to introduce to you today an important initiative which we call "SEAMEO College".

2 SEAMEO College pioneers a platform for high-level discussions on forward-looking issues and concerns that will help prepare Southeast Asia for the challenges of the future, and support the ASEAN community. SEAMEO College is one of the SEAMEO initiatives under the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2011-2020.

3 For almost two years beginning in May 2011, consultations were made with SEAMEO Member Countries and network on its concept and details. Early this year, the SEAMEO Council approved the SEAMEO College Concept and Detailed Design in a unanimous decision by referendum.

4 The SEAMO College will consist of a series of forums and research and development activities. It is expected to address capacity development not being fulfilled by a single SEAMEO Centre at present such as those cross-cutting issues and specific concerns and challenges confronting high-level education leaders in Southeast Asia and the world.

5 The modules and programmes will be implemented by the SEAMEO Centres while the SEAMEO Secretariat will coordinate with all parties involved. SEAMEO College will not duplicate the capacity development programmes of the SEAMEO Centres. Instead, it will provide opportunity for SEAMEO Centres to work together to respond to unique issues and challenges of Southeast Asian education leaders through their collective efforts and resources.

6 SEAMEO College aims to:

- a) Create a flagship initiative to respond to the ministerial direction in visioning SEAMEO as being more efficient and responsive to regional needs;
- b) Enhance leadership of SEAMEO through specialized and high quality programme utilizing the cross cutting and innovative ways of knowledge delivery and practices;
- c) Create a platform for sharing and exchanging of ideas, practices and research;

- d) Strengthen the integration of regional human resource development particularly in terms of promoting indigenous wisdom and talent in the region; and
- e) Support ASEAN's Work Plan on Education, particularly in narrowing development gaps, preparing the youth for regional leadership, and enhancing competitiveness of the peoples of ASEAN

7 SEAMEO College will feature four modules for four target groups, namely:

- a) Module 1 – Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers
- b) Module 2 – High Officials Country Case Study
- c) Module 3 – Education Leaders' Innovation Forum and Learning
- d) Module 4 – Innovation Forum of Youth Leaders

8 The three first issues identified to be tackled in SEAMEO College include:

- a) Bridging regional divides
- b) Accelerating the process of creating a “common space” for higher education in Southeast Asia
- c) Social needs and market demand signaling systems for technical manpower

9 SEAMEO College supports the realization of the Golden SEAMEO goal, a state foreseen 10 years from now which is characterized by programme responsiveness and stability, social mobility in the midst of cultural diversity, and thriving application of modern technologies.

10 Key to making this happen is the resolve of SEAMEO to achieve a more global outlook and pursue a stronger fortitude for regional cooperation. Generating new and innovative ideas through SEAMEO College will fuel to action the mandate for which SEAMEO was created which is the promotion of cooperation in education, science and culture. Eventually, SEAMEO College will also contribute to fulfilling the ASEAN Community.

11 Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of SEAMEO, I would like to acknowledge the Asian Development Bank and the Government of Japan for the support to this initiative.

12 Thank you very much.