

Welcome Remarks at the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference

by His Excellency Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training

His Excellency President Truong Tan Sang,

His Excellency Vice President Nguyen Thien Nhan,

His Excellency Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education Brunei Darussalam and President of the SEAMEO Council,

Distinguished Ministers, Heads of Delegations from SEAMEO Country Members and Associate Members,

Distinguished delegates from diplomatic corps,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

First of all, I would like to express my deep appreciation to His Excellency President Truong Tan Sang of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam for his valuable time to participate and open the 47th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Council Conference (the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference) hosted by Vietnam. The President's attention to the Conference and the cooperation among the Members the South East Asian Ministers of Education (SEAMEO) would be a great encouragement to the Conference.

It is a great honor for me to represent the Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam to extend the warmest regards to the Education Ministers, Heads of Delegations from the SEAMEO Country Members and Associate Members, representatives from international organization, representatives of the SEAMEO Secretariat, and delegates attending this Conference.

I would like to congratulate the United Kingdom on the accession to SEAMEO as the 8th Associate Member. We hope that the United Kingdom will make great contribution to the development of education, science, and culture in the South East Asia for the interest of the region in particular and the world in general.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As a leading organization in the South East Asia with the mission to foster the development of education, science, and culture, SEAMEO has made dynamic contribution to speeding up human resource development in the region for the past 47 years. The key mission SEAMEO assumes is "to promote regional understanding and cooperation on education, science, and culture to improve quality of life in the South East Asia".

The SEAMEO Conference is an auspicious occasion to promote cooperation on education in the region – a priority for not only the South East Asian countries but also the whole world. Resolutions of the SEAMEO Council discussed in each conference will address common issues of the region and country-specific issues concerning the innovation and development of education to satisfy the increasing need for human resource development.

The 46th SEAMEO Conference adopted the 2011-2020 SEAMEO Strategic Plan with 18 projects aimed at positioning SEAMEO at a higher status. The 47th SEAMEO Conference (47th SEAMEC) held in Vietnam is to discuss and address issues to adopt solutions and strategies to implement this plan.

In two days (today and tomorrow), we are discussing the Agenda at the Plenary Session to review the cooperation progress and consider to approve some key proposals. The theme for the SEAMEO Council Conference this year is “Life-long Learning: Vision and Policy”. Similar to the 46th SEAMEC, the Round Table Ministerial meeting scheduled on March 21 gives the Ministers an opportunity to discuss common issues. The meeting is to focus on the common effort of SEAMEO Members in “building a learning society in the South East Asian countries” and “building an ASEAN community in 2015 and beyond”.

The Ministry of Education and Training of Vietnam is glad to inform you that the 47th SEAMEO Council Conference taking place in Vietnam this year will mark the establishment of the 20th SEAMEO Regional Center for Lifelong Learning (SEAMEO CELL) based in Ho Chi Minh city, Vietnam and the launch of SEAMEO College funded by the Asian Development Bank.

As there are a lot of issues and activities are placed in the agenda and the program, for the success of the Conference, we are calling for active contribution and open discussions from the Education Ministers, Heads of Delegations from the SEAMEO Countries Members, Associate Members, representatives, and delegates attending the Conference.

I wish you all health and an enjoyable trip in Hanoi.

I wish the 47th SEAMEO Conference a great success.

Thank you for your attention!