



## **An Opening Address**

**by**

**H.E. Admiral Narong Pipatanasai, Minister of Education,  
Ministry of Education, Thailand**

**at the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference**

**on Thursday 7 May 2015, at 09.30 hrs.**

**at the Head of State Chamber, 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.**

**the Royal Cliff Grand Hotel, Chonburi**

H.E. Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, President of the SEAMEC,  
Members of the SEAMEC,  
Representatives from SEAMEO Associate Member Countries and SEAMEO Affiliate  
Members,  
Governor of Chonburi Province and Mayor of Pattaya City,  
Distinguished High Officials and Representatives from SEAMEO Member Countries,  
Diplomatic Corps, Director of the SEAMEO Secretariat,  
Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres and Network Secretary-General,  
Distinguished Guests,

On behalf of the Thai Government, I would like to welcome members of the SEAMEO Council, Directors of SEAMEO Regional Centres, and all representatives and observers from relevant agencies for your valuable participation in this 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference. I am most honoured that Thailand has an opportunity to host the SEAMEO Council Conference once again.

The SEAMEO Council Conference is a very important educational stage in which educational policy makers of SEAMEO member countries are able to discuss and formulate implementation policies and trends in education in the Southeast Asia Region. Thus, it is a great pleasure for me to represent the Thai Government in extending our warmest greetings to all of you to Thailand and to the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference. I wholeheartedly support this Conference and wish it a great success.

As Minister of Education, I am well aware of the significance of this SEAMEO Council Conference. The year 2015 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SEAMEO. This Organization has been regarded as an educational mechanism that has run continuously for the longest time in the Southeast Asia Region. During the past 50 years, the SEAMEO has successfully implemented projects and activities beneficial to educational development in this Region. I would like to express my sincere appreciation for its past success. I also firmly believe that, with the collaboration spirit and harmony of the SEAMEO member countries, the SEAMEO will be able to move

education in this Region towards great success and achieve its current and future goals.

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the SEAMEO, this 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference not only serves as a strategic stage for educational policy development in the Southeast Asia Region but also provides the SEAMEO member countries with an opportunity to review recent achievements of the SEAMEO, along with the impediments to its progress. Besides, we will be able to formulate new educational policies and future direction for policy implementation and to move the collaboration in education, science and culture in the Southeast Asia Region towards the achievement of the goals set forth.

I am convinced that the SEAMEO Council Conference, which includes the Ministerial Round Table Meeting on the Theme “SEAMEO in the Next Decade” to be held tomorrow, will be a forum to reflect the wisdom and dedication of SEAMEC members. We will have an opportunity to exchange our opinions and formulate strategic policies and future directions for the SEAMEO. In so doing, SEAMEO will remain an important mechanism for its member countries in strengthening the development of education and human resources in responsive with global changes.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The importance of educational development, both at national and regional levels, has long been recognized by the Thai Ministry of Education. Thailand has collaborated with several international organizations, particularly with the SEAMEO, in many educational development projects. In so doing, our goals are to decrease social disparity by providing educational access with equity and equality; to develop the quality and standards of educational system and curriculum; to nurture children and youth with the senses of morality, discipline and social responsibilities; and to promote the teaching profession by upgrading the teacher status.

Thailand has always attached great importance to educational collaboration in the Southeast Asia Region, both at multilateral and bilateral levels. I hereby would like to pledge that the Thai Government will continue to collaborate in educational development with countries and regional and international organizations. We wish to develop our citizens and youths to effectively adopt technologies to benefit their daily lives and the society as a whole, and thus be able to flourish in the digital age. We also give priority to developing our learners, in terms of their morality, capabilities, life skills, and social skills. Currently, we hope to prepare them as good Thai citizens, with readiness for our regional communities and wish that they would become global citizens in the future.

I strongly believe that the SEAMEO member countries will continue to work together to exchange knowledge and experiences in dealing with emerging problems and challenges in education. At the same time, we will formulate education policies and plans by taking into account the need to improve education to develop our human resources in responsive to rapid changes of the globalization era.

Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This is an appropriate time for us to reminisce about those outstanding leaders, who have important roles in supporting the work of the SEAMEO and paved the strong foundation for the SEAMEO during these past 50 years. We all should hold them in high regard and follow their footsteps. In recognition of their benevolence to the SEAMEO,

6 SEAMEO Recognition Awards will be presented to these outstanding leaders. In this occasion, I would like to congratulate and thank all of you who are very worthy of these valuable awards.

At this juncture, I would like to welcome all of you to Thailand once again. I hope your stay here will be pleasurable and impressive. I also would like to invite you to visit the historical places in Thailand, and particularly, to visit Chonburi Province. This province is very important to Thailand's economic development; it is a famous tourist destination in Thailand and in the Southeast Asia Region. All of the people in Chonburi are very pleased to greet their guests with friendship and hospitality. This is the uniqueness of all Thai people.

Now, it is time to declare open this 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference. I wish this Conference a great success in all its deliberations.

Thank you.

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