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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Thailand hosts 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference**

The Ministry of Education, Thailand, will host the largest gathering of education ministers in Southeast Asia at the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference from 6 to 9 May 2015 at the Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand. The SEAMEO Council Conference will be attended by more than 200 participants from 22 countries. Delegates include education ministers, high-level government education officials, and representatives from international organizations. The eleven SEAMEO Member States, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, Regional Centres and development partner will be represented.

Thailand Education Minister, His Excellency Admiral Narong Pipathanasai is expected to address the delegations and preside over the Opening Ceremony on 7 May 2015. He will also serve as the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council President from May 2015 – April 2017.

The 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference aims to foster stronger cooperation on education among Southeast Asian countries and beyond. High on the agenda of the 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference are on ongoing discussion relating to education policy and development across Southeast Asia and the celebration of 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of SEAMEO.

In conjunction with the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration, SEAMEO has instigated the SEAMEO 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Recognition Award to honour those people who have contributed significantly to SEAMEO's diverse programmes that promote cooperation and the development of education, science and culture across the region. This vision has contributed to a better quality of life for millions of people in Southeast Asia over the last 50 years.

The 48<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference will also mark the acceptance of new affiliated member, China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE).

Also, important highlight of the conference is a policy forum on the theme "Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens" which will be shared by Thailand as the host country.

The SEAMEO Council, SEAMEO's governing body, is composed of the 11 ministers of education of the SEAMEO Member Countries. SEAMEO is an international and regional intergovernmental organization whose members are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. It has 21 Specialist Regional Centres in Southeast Asia.

SEAMEO collaborates with global and international organizations like UNESCO, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN secretariat and others in the execution of its mandate which is the promotion of cooperation in education, science and culture. It is also supported by its Associate Member Countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, New Zealand and Spain. The International Council for Open and Distance Education, Tsukuba University, Japan and the British Council are Affiliate Members. The headquarters of SEAMEO is located in Bangkok, Thailand.

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