



Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization

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PRESS RELEASE

Thailand hosts 48th SEAMEO Council Conference

The Ministry of Education, Thailand, hosted the largest gathering of education ministers in Southeast Asia at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference from 6 to 9 May 2015 at the Royal Cliff Hotels Group, Chonburi, Thailand.

The three-day conference was attended by the Ministers of Education and higher education officials from 11 SEAMEO Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam), representatives from SEAMEO Associate Member Countries, SEAMEO Affiliate members, SEAMEO Regional Centres and international organizations/institutions.

H E Admiral Narong Pipathanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand opened the Conference on behalf of the Prime Minister on Thursday, 7 May 2015 which was followed by the Launch of SEAMEO 50th Anniversary celebration and Award Ceremony of SEAMEO Recognition Award in conjunction with SEAMEO 50th Anniversary celebration. H E Admiral Narong Pipathanasai succeeded Vietnam's Minister of Education and Training, Prof Dr Pham Vu Luan, as the 48th SEAMEO Council President from May 2015 – April 2017.

SEAMEO Affiliate Membership Certificate was presented to China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE) by H E Admiral Narong Pipathanasai, Minister of Education, Thailand, the 48th SEAMEO Council President. Partnership as an affiliate member with CEAIE would strengthen collaboration between SEAMEO Member countries and the People's Republic of China.

High on the agenda of the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference were on ongoing discussion relating to education policy and development across Southeast Asia. In the plenary session, the SEAMEO Council took note of on-going programmes/ projects including:

- SEAMEO Regional Study and Development of Post-2015 Education Scenarios and Post-EFA Agenda in Southeast Asia
- SEAMEO College
- Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics
- SEAMEO Basic Education Standards
- 50th SEAMEO Anniversary Celebration
- SEAMEO - UNESCO Project on Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia
- SEAMEO - Germany Regional Fit for School (FFS) Program

A Special Policy Forum on “Digital Learning for Creating Future Global Citizens”, as well as the Ministerial round table on “SEAMEO in the Next Decade”, were also held.

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization was established in November 1965 as a chartered international organization whose purpose is to promote cooperation in education, science and culture in the Southeast Asian region. Since its establishment, the Ministers have been meeting annually to take note of the accomplishments of the 21 SEAMEO Regional Centres/units situated all over Southeast Asia, the financial reports, the on-going activities and to approve the future plans and activities. Beginning in 2013, the SEAMEO Council Conference is convened biennially. The Conference is hosted by the Member Countries on a rotation basis. Other Member Countries could also offer to host the Conference.

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