Activities Conducted by the SEAMEO Units Under the SEAMEO Community Involvement Programme During FY 2008 to FY 2009

A. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (SEAMEO BIOTROP), Indonesia

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

Objectives:
The objectives of the community involvement programmes conducted by SEAMEO BIOTROP are:

- To improve community welfare through introduction of simple applied technology to generate additional income.
- To promote education for sustainable development.
- To strengthen the collaboration between SEAMEO BIOTROP with the community around the Center and beyond.

Activities:
Several community involvement programmes have been conducted during the fiscal year 2008/2009, such as training courses on:

- Tissue culture techniques
- Organic farming in the limited area of land and biophores as the alternative of soil conservation
- Technique of composting from domestic waste
- Organic farming at school and education for sustainable development concept and analysis

Training Courses on Organic Farm

- Organic farming focusing on rice productivity
- Establishing collaboration with a private company managing an industrial park (Karawang International Industrial City), Bogor Agricultural University, SEAMOLEC, and SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI to conduct community programme for 5 villages around the working area of the company
- Fruit chips agro-industry
- Aromatic distillation agro-industry
- Scientific drawing programme for orphans and disabled children around Bogor City
- Catfish farming technique on knock-down ponds
- Oyster mushroom production
MOU signing on Community Development between BIOTROP, SEAMOLEC, TROP MED Indonesia, Bogor Agriculture University and Karawang International Industrial City

Scientific Drawing Programme for orphans and disabled children

Other activities related to community involvement were:
- Blood donation
- Food Stuff Bazaar
- Mass Circumcisions

Target groups:
A total of 332 people attended the various training courses listed above. They are:
- High school teachers
- University students
- Children from orphan houses
- Disabled children from various primary schools
- Farmers and community members from different villages mainly from around the SEAMEO BIOTROP

Partners:
The community involvement programmes have been conducted with support of various institutions, i.e.:
- Bogor Agricultural University
- Research Center for Biology and Genetic (BALITBIOGEN)
- Bandung Institute of Technology
- SEAMOLEC
- SEAMEO TROP MED RCCN UI
- Private companies, i.e. Sari Sehat Multi Farms (producing mushroom and herbal drinks), and Karawang International Industrial City (an industrial park)
Fiscal Year 2009/2010

The Community involvement programme for fiscal year 2009/2010 will be consisted of:

- Continuation programmes, including: training on tissue culture, catfish farming, organic farming, and mushroom farming.
- Strengthening the implementation of the community involvement programme in collaboration with Karawang International Industrial City, SEAMOLEC and SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN UI
- Launching of special programme on sorghum based community development for food, feeds, and bio-energy production for community in remote area in collaboration with the Ministry of Research and Technology, Mining and other companies
- Improvement of demonstration plots to support community involvement programmes, such as permanent plot for organic farming, fish ponds, and mushroom production houses

B. SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition (SEAMEO CHAT), Myanmar

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

SEAMEO CHAT implemented the following Community Involvement activities during the FY 2008/2009:

1. Capacity Building Programmes

For the development of teaching skills, SEAMEO CHAT furnished the teachers of the school to enroll at the CHAT Communication in English Course. Two teachers had already obtained Diploma in English Proficiency from the Centre and two teachers are still attending the sixth level (Advanced II) of the English course.

Moreover, SEAMEO CHAT provided books and materials on History as teaching aids for teachers to enhance their skills and knowledge. To raise the school capacity, several meetings were conducted in which the programme officers of SEAMEO CHAT, teachers, parents and school community attended for sharing of knowledge and experiences as well as evaluating the work done, and what more can be done in the future.
2. ASEAN Awareness Programme

With the aim of raising the awareness and understanding on ASEAN, SEAMEO CHAT organized the quiz competition on ASEAN for secondary level students in September 2008 and prizes were awarded to students getting the highest marks at the competition.

3. Environmental Awareness Programme

Under the Environmental Awareness Programme, SEAMEO CHAT organized and carried out activities of cleaning school campus and planting of trees in June 2009. Staff from SEAMEO CHAT also participated in this Programme along with the teachers and students.

4. Traditional Awareness Programme

To value and be aware of the tradition, custom and language, one of the minority languages, Kayin language classes were given during the summer vacation in April 2009, in which parents, teachers and community were involved. Closing ceremony was arranged in a befitting manner and prizes were given to create stronger interest in students as well as their parents.

Fiscal Year 2009/2010

Objective:
The objective of the programme is to improve the existing system of the school focusing on capacity building of teachers and students, learning facilities, school management, as well as on parents and community’s involvement. The long term objective is to help the school improve the quality of teaching and learning and sustain the above mentioned components.

Activities to be implemented:
- Enhancing and developing of the school capacity
- Improving teachers’ capabilities
- ASEAN Awareness Programme
- Environmental Awareness Programme
- Traditional Awareness Programme
- Health Education Programme

Target Groups:
- Teachers and Students from the school
- School community

Expected partners/partnership:
- Department of Basic Education
- Department of Myanmar Education Research Bureau
C. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), Philippines

Over the period in review, the Center continued to provide technical assistance and expertise, on top of provision of used office equipment, publications and computer/audio-visual equipment to the adopted schools which include the following:

QEE Network

- Bongabon National High School, Bongabon District, Division of Nueva Ecija
- Capas West Central High School, Capas District, Division of Tarlac
- Bahuyan Yapo Multigrade School, Barbasa District, Division of Antique

SEAMEO INNOTECH Corporate Social Responsibility Project

- Culiat Elementary School, Schools Division of Quezon City
- Culiat High School, Schools Division of Quezon City

Adopted Schools

- Patria National High School, Patria, Pandan, Antique
- Assemblyman Segundo Moscoso Memorial School, San Pedro, San Jose, Antique
- Canuto B. Pefianco Elementary School, Madrangca, San Jose Antique

Contributions/Services Rendered

- Participation of school principals in SEAMEO INNOTECH forums and training courses
- Personal Computers (20 sets) and peripherals
- 2 sets each of IBM Thinkpad Notebook Computers
- Consultations on SEAMEO INNOTECH Programmes
- 130 work-days in the Brigada Eskwela (National School Clean-up and Maintenance Week)
- Painting/re-finishing and cleaning of 6 classrooms
- Painting/re-finishing of chalkboards and bulletin boards
- Provision of paint, cleaning and finishing materials
- Donation of school and office furniture and service vehicle
INNOTECH’s CSR Program. Director Erlinda C. Pefianco led Center staff in repainting classrooms of the Culiat High School and Elementary School in Quezon City, Philippines. The Centre joined the nationwide drive (called Brigada Eskwela) of the Department of Education to prepare the country’s 42,000 schools for the opening of classes. Brigada Eskwela has been a successful public-private partnership that has saved the Department millions of pesos in school maintenance costs.

D. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics, (SEAMEO RECSAM), Malaysia

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

1. SEAMEO RECSAM continues to work with the fourteen partner schools within the vicinity of Penang Island in the form of training and research partnerships.

2. Teachers of the seven primary and seven secondary partner schools were offered free scholarships to participate in 8 workshops organized by the Centre throughout the fiscal year. A total of 39 partner schools teachers had the opportunity to attend the workshops and seminars conducted in RECSAM by international consultants.

3. The centre’s Learning Resource Centre offers free membership to all science and mathematics teachers of the fourteen partner schools.

4. RECSAM’s partnership with the schools has enabled their students to gain exposure interacting with international teachers and experience innovative teaching designed by regular and customized course participants through try-outs conducted either in the schools or in RECSAM.

5. RECSAM also supports the Association of Science and Mathematics Educators of Penang (ASMEP) through various collaborative programmes with the community of science and mathematics teachers of Penang. The Centre provides venue and facilities for meetings and activities organized by the association. In line with the Centre’s initiative in promoting science and mathematics education, a total of 23
ASMEP members were given free scholarships to participate in RECSAM’s workshops and seminars.

6. On 4 November 2008, RECSAM conducted a one-day workshop entitled “Promoting Scientific Investigative Skills on Addressing Environmental Problems and Issues” for a total of 60 students from two schools in Penang under the sponsorship of the Penang state government. The workshop was conducted in RECSAM and the Penang Botanical Gardens. This programme was a state government's initiative for various communities, civil organizations, educational institutions and non-governmental organizations in providing educational activities to improve the learning of science and technology among school children. The workshop was aimed at increasing the awareness of schoolchildren about the importance of the environment, their responsibility towards the community and the environment as well as cultivating their interests in the field of science and technology.

7. RECSAM organized a Climate Change Awareness Seminar entitled “Climate Change Scenarios and its Implication on Ecosystem and Biodiversity, Food Security and Health” for school administrators, community leaders and the general public on 23 and 24 June 2009. The objective of the seminar was to develop awareness in various disciplines that climate change affects all aspects of life. The seminar also aimed at stimulating the interest of the participants to contribute in climate change issues from their own local perspective. Information and dissemination of important components of climate change will prepare the next generation to cope with the adverse and harsh resultant effects of the phenomenon. A total of 85 participants attended the seminar.

E. SEAMEO Regional Language Centre (SEAMEO RELC), Singapore

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

SEAMEO RELC partnered with the National Library Board to present a series of three talks in July, August and September 2008.

The talk in July 2008 entitled ‘Using Standard Spoken English at Home’ was held in Woodlands Regional Library. The speaker gave examples of how parents could become a good and accurate model of the standard English language when communicating with their children.

The second talk, held at the Sengkang Community Library, focused on the ten best methods that parents could use to teach their children to speak good English.
The third talk was held in the Ang Mo Kio Community Library in September 2008. It provided information on how parents could distinguish between the uses of standard Singapore English and Singapore colloquial English, and be role-models in speaking good English.

All three talks were well received by parents who wished to be good English language role models for their children.

**Fiscal Year 2009/2010**

**Objectives:** To contribute to society by imparting practical language skills and upgrading the language proficiency of the different communities in Singapore

**Activities to be implemented:** Talks and workshops

**Target groups:** Parents, low-income families, the handicapped and foreigners working in Singapore

**Expected partners/ partnership:** Community centres, welfare organizations, embassies and clubs

**F. SEAMEO Regional Training Centre (SEAMEO RETRAC), Vietnam**

**Fiscal Year 2008/2009**

1) **Empowering school administrators from remote and disadvantaged areas of Vietnam with school leadership and management skills**

   SEAMEO RETRAC, with financial support from the Belgium Technical Cooperation, offered two training courses in 2008 to empower school administrators from remote and disadvantaged areas of Vietnam with school leadership and management skills. The training also helped link those school administrators for experience sharing and professional networking, promoting mutual exchange and assistance among schools in different regions.

2) **Reaching the un-reached school heads from Tay Nguyen provinces**

   From April 21-23, 2009, SEAMEO RETRAC in cooperation with Tay Nguyen University offered a training course on school leadership and management for 33 school heads from Dak Nong, Gia Lai and Kon Tum provinces.

   The purpose of the training course is to reach the school heads from disadvantaged areas so as to (1) improve their school leadership and management skills, (2) help bridge the gap
between those in remote areas and urban areas, and (3) engage experience sharing and networking among the high-school leaders.

3) Supporting poor teachers in disadvantaged provinces to have a decent family reunion in the traditional New Year 2009

In the traditional New Year 2008, SEAMEO RETRAC financially supported 200 teachers in four disadvantaged provinces to have a decent family reunion.

4) House-building for disadvantaged people in Ben Tre Province

SEAMEO RETRAC joined the house-building project for the poor people in Ben Tre Province – a small province in the Mekong Delta - in 2008. The project is to support the “hunger elimination and poverty reduction” program in poor communities and to help improve the living conditions of poor people.

5) Others:
   - Fund raising for poor people in Ho Chi Minh City.
   - Blood donation program

G. SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMEO SEAMOLEC), Indonesia

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

The existence of SEAMEO centers should be of benefit to community development. SEAMOLEC has been conducting some programmes to support community development through training courses. The training courses are mostly designed for teacher development:

1) Basic ICT skills for Teacher Club for Jabodetabek area

This training course was conducted on Saturdays and Sundays for teachers at basic level in terms of computer skills. The participants are mostly primary school teachers under the Teachers Club of Jabodetabek area.
As a part of corporate social responsibility (CSR) of SEAMOLEC, this training course is free of charge, under the coordination of training division of SEAMOLEC and the teachers club. Participants learn the basics of computer skills, such as word processing, spreadsheet, presentation, introduction to internet, and email. The similar course is also offered to a group of university lecturer around the campus.

2) **Self-Access Study program for English teachers**

This training course is designed for teachers of English to enable them to integrate ICT into English classroom, such as the use of email and mailing list, blog, and hot potatoes. The email partnership program for their students to practice English communication is also planned during the course.

3) **Web-Based Courseware Development for teachers**

Teachers at university level, both in Indonesia and in other SEA countries have been taking the opportunity to learn how to develop learning material in a learning management system (Moodle).

This course is made to enable them to conduct open and distance learning to their students. This training was designed together between SEAMOLEC and the hosting universities based on cost sharing. The share from SEAMOLEC is to send its trainers to the training venue with all the expenses, and the hosting universities provide the participants and the computer laboratory.
4) Integration of ICT into Classroom

In collaboration with local offices of education at district and municipality level, SEAMOLEC will conduct a one-week training for teachers of elementary and high schools. It is a program for teachers to enable them to integrate ICT into their classroom.

Apart from teacher training courses, the programs for students were also developed:

1) Ujian Online (Online Examination) in Preparation for National Final examinations

In collaboration with Malang office of education, a program called MASQI (Malang School Quality Improvement) has been running to prepare students for the national examinations. Students from elementary schools to high schools in Malang took this opportunity to practice the online tests developed by teachers. The website is www.masqi.web.id

Another program for the preparation of the national final test was through video conference, by which teacher at Seamolec and students in Surabaya and Malang discussed items in the tests. SEAMOLEC also prepared a website for students to parctise online test, called LUNAS: www.lunas.seamolec.org

2) Debate Online

To practice English proficiency, particularly expressing ideas in English, SEAMOLEC has prepared an online forum at www.debateonline.seamolec.org

In this forum, anyone can participate to discuss on provided controversial issues. They learn from each other, try to understand others’ thoughts and practice to express ideas and opinions in English with a very low level of stress, as it is done online.

3) CISCO Discovery Training

Sixty students of SMK Bina Rahayu have been undertaking a 2-month training course on CISCO Discovery: Networking for Home and Small Business.
4) Mobile Game Technology

A training course to produce a mobile educative game has also been undertaken by groups of students, both through video conference and through internship program. Students are trained to produce educational games to be developed in mobile phones by using JAVA programming.

H. SEAMEO Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture, (SEAMEO SEARCA), Philippines

Fiscal Year 2008/2009

1) Los Baños Science Community (LBSC)

As a member of LBSC, SEARCA participated in the annual National Science and Technology Week held on 14-18 July 2008, the highlight of which was SyenSaya: A Los Baños Science Festival. Syensaya’s main goal was to promote the philosophy that ‘science is fun.’ SEARCA was directly involved in organizing the Research and Development Symposium at SyenSaya. SEARCA has also served as LBSC’s Treasurer since 2003.

SEARCA also joined the Boy Scouts of the Philippines in a tree-planting event on 18 July 2008 at the boundary of Mt. Makiling Forest Reserve. The forests on Mt. Makiling collectively perform various important ecological functions, including the prevention of soil erosion and as sanctuary for wildlife. Mt. Makiling is an important watershed and a source of the natural springs that are among Los Baños’ major tourist attractions.

The Center also extended support to the local municipality of Los Baños by taking part in its 392nd Founding Anniversary. Dubbed as Bañamos Festival, the festivities include a parade, community contests, as well as exhibits.
2) **Maahas Elementary School**

SEARCA conducted a gift-giving for its adopted school – Maahas Elementary School, a public school located in one of the villages of Los Baños on 17 December 2008. The school's pupils were given milk and other gifts.

3) **Donations**

During the fiscal year in review, SEARCA made the following donations: (1) used vehicles to the University of the Philippines Los Baños and the Municipality of Los Baños, and (2) various fixtures and carpentry materials to the Makiling Tennis Club, Inc.

J. **SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA), Thailand**

**Fiscal Year 2008/2009**

1) **“Blue Grass and More” Concert: Music Exchange between USA and Thailand**

**Collaborators/Partners:** US Embassy, Luk Lan Muang Phrae Network, Phrae Cultural Council, Office of Non-Formal and Formal Education of Phrae and Phrae Municipality

**Date/Venue:** 19 February 2009, Phrae, Thailand

In order to celebrate the 175-year friendship between Thailand and the United States, the US Embassy in Bangkok collaborated with partners in Thailand to bring a Blue Grass band (a kind of traditional American music) to perform in Thailand. There were three chosen venues including Phrae, as the Embassy was interested community-based heritage conservation projects that SPAFA has been working on with the local community there.

A 113-year-old missionary house within the precinct of the Provincial Office of Formal and Non-Formal Education was chosen as the concert venue. The house was being renovated by the local community and the Provincial Office of Formal and Non-Formal Education in order to be a local learning center. In conjunction with the concert, a brainstorming meeting between members of the local community and government agencies was organized in the house to discuss heritage conservation of the Phrae city in general.

The concert was successfully conducted with performances from both American and local musicians. The old missionary house also received much attention from the local public and the media, which helped raise public awareness in terms of heritage conservation in the province.
“The Student Loan”, an American Blue Grass band, performed on stage in the courtyard of the 113-year-old house built by a group of American missionaries. Now the house belongs to the Provincial Office of Formal and Non-Formal Education, and will be used as a learning centre for the province.

2) Natong Community Participatory Archaeological Research Project

**Collaborators/Partners:** Natong community, Luk Lan Muang Phrae Network, Mae Kon – Mae Sai Rivers Management Unit, Phrae Cultural Council, Office of Non-Formal and Formal Education of Phrae, Silpakorn University, Office of Archaeology- Thai Fine Arts Department and the 7th Office of Archaeology- Thai Fine Arts Department

**Date/Venue:** January - July 2009, Phrae, Thailand

Ban Natong is a small village situated in a mountain in Phrae, Thailand. In 2003, the villagers discovered a prehistoric site covering an area of three caves. However, since the village was quite remote, the site remained unprotected and no research was conducted even though it was among the first prehistoric sites discovered in Phrae so far.

In 2007, SPAFA together with representatives from the Thai Fine Arts Department visited the site together with members of the local community. The site was reported to the 7th Regional Office of the Fine Arts Department and was officially surveyed in March 2008. It was recognized as a burial site dated around 3,000 – 6,000 years old and the first prehistoric site found in that area.

The local community expressed great interests to protect and to conserve the site. They requested for permission from the Director-General of the Fine Arts Department to excavate and research the site together with other partners concerned including SPAFA and the Thai Fine Arts Department.

The excavation started in January 2009 and was completed in June 2009. The local community participated in all three phases of the excavation. A temporary exhibition was set up in the village temple in order to exhibit some of the finds including stone tools, animal bones, as well as a complete male skeleton which, according to radiocarbon dating, is more than 4,000 years old.

The project will continue in 2009-2010.
Local school children and member of local community participated in the excavation.

The temporary exhibition area within the Wat Natong temple

**Fiscal Year 2009/2010**

**Natong Community Participatory Archaeological Research**

**Type/Description of Activity:** Research

**Rationale:**

As a follow-up project of the research implemented in FY08/09, SEAMEO-SPAFA will continue to work with the Ban Natong community in order to assist the local community to conserve and manage the site.

The 2nd phase of the project in 2009-2010 will engage a larger audience of the local community to focus on site protection and management while promoting the collaboration between the local community, the local government offices and the heritage body.

The lessons learnt from the project will serve as examples for projects of the same kind in the region.

**Objectives:**

- To promote a collaboration between the local community and the heritage authority in heritage conservation
- To equip the local community with tools for site protection and management
- To set up a museum in the village

**Activities to be implemented:**

- Assisting the local community to find funding for a local museum
- A series of training on cultural resource management for the local community
- A series of meeting and workshops for the local partners in order to promote collaboration and understanding between partners involved

**Target groups:**

- The local community of the Ban Natong village
- Local partners from NGO groups and government agencies

**Expected Partners:** Ban Natong community, Luk Lan Muang Phrae Network, Mae Kon – Mae Sai Rivers Management Unit, Phrae Cultural Council, Silpakorn University, Office of Archaeology - Thai Fine Arts Department, the 7th Office of Archaeology - Thai Fine Arts Department.
K. SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Community Nutrition (SEAMEO TROPMED RCCN), Indonesia

In the fiscal year of 2009/2010, the Centre has 3 main activities for Community Involvement (two are the continuing activities of the 2008/2009 and one new initiative;

1) **Continue the roll out of food safety training for nutritionists and other health professionals throughout the country in Indonesia,**

   The objective of the activity, continuing the roll out of food safety training for nutritionists and other health professionals, is to disseminate food safety messages for the prevention of foodborne diseases. The target groups are the final year of nutrition school students and nutritionists at primary health care. It is expected to reach 200 nutrition school students and 50 nutritionists at primary health care in 4 districts in Indonesia. For this activity, the Centre’s main partners are the Industry Council for Development (ICD), Health Polytechnics, and Nutrition and District Health Offices.

2) **Continue the 7th South East Asian Nutrition Leadership Program (SEA-NLP)**

   The objective of the 7th South East Asian Nutrition Leadership Program (SEA-NLP) is to equip middle-level nutritionists with essential leadership, team building, and communication skills.

   It is expected that they could contribute actively to solve nutrition problems in their area of work and region. The activity to be implemented is a full 5-day training where the participants could learn, understand and practice essential leadership skills. The number of participants is around twenty five nutritionists working in research institutes, universities, Ministry of Health offices, etc from South East Asian countries. The expected partners for this activity are the European Nutrition Leadership Program (ENLP), nutrition experts, international NGOs etc.

3) **Seminar and workshop on nutrition and food safety for health officials at district level**


   **(New initiative)**

   The objective of the seminar and workshop on nutrition and food safety is to increase awareness and understanding on the importance of nutrition and food safety message dissemination for public. Studies showed that health professionals are the most reliable source of information on health as perceived by the community.

   This activity will come up with nutrition and food safety messages to be delivered to the community. Seminar and workshop will be arranged in such a way that participants could have practical session on the delivery of nutrition and food safety messages. The target
group of the seminar and workshops are nutritionists, environmental health workers and other health workers at primary health care and district health offices. The expected partners for this activity are SEAMEO BIOTROP, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Karawang International Industrial City, and primary health centers and district health offices.

L. SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine, Thailand

The Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University has been working under various international agencies since 1922. These international collaborations expand and strengthen medical and public health networks including human resource development through various joint training courses and research projects.

Community involvement programme is one of the main joint projects that has been implemented continuously under a unique collaboration between international agencies and SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand in fighting against tropical diseases.

1) Asian Centre of International Parasite Control: ACIPAC

SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine is appointed as “The Asian Centre of International Parasite Control (ACIPAC)”, established as a Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) project under an agreement between the Governments of the Kingdom of Thailand and Japan.

Activities were to promote the concept of school-based development programme. The programme focused on the malaria and soil-transmitted helminthiases (STH) control, mainly through human resource development, which could be eventually extended to other health promotion program. Participating countries were come from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Ghana, Kenya, and Timor Leste (East Timor).

Implementation of small-scale pilot project (SSPP) resulted in the establishment of national policies on parasite control and/or school health in some partner countries. It also provided a good opportunity for the formulation of partnerships among health and education sectors and international partners. ACIPAC has now extended its continuing activities for health education and health promotion among school children in Thailand, including school-based approach for infectious disease control and intervention such as avian influenza.
2) Development of a school-based approach on emerging infectious disease control with emphasis on avian influenza in Thailand

It has long been recognized by public-health personnel that health education is an effective strategy for disease prevention. Developing accurate knowledge through health education can prevent infectious diseases among all target groups.

The school health approach is also a widely accepted health education strategy. The school health approach yields good results for the prevention of malaria and intestinal parasitic infections, by using school students as a knowledge base to spread accurate information to their families and communities.

A comprehensive school health approach to emerging infectious disease control in Thailand has been evaluated by the SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand’s research study in 2007/2008 in Suphan Buri province.

In the beginning, health education materials, such as teaching manuals and student text books were developed as tools for this school-based approach. Based on teacher manuals, a school-to-community approach has conducted as a method for social mobilization for controlling the diseases in the pilot area. Efficacy of the new module in both health promoting schools and non-health promoting schools was then evaluated.

SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine is planning to conduct more research studies on communicable disease prevention and control by using school health and
community based approach in Suphan Buri province in 2010. Objectives aim to promote school health and community based approach among Suphan Buri’s primary schools. This study will be jointly implemented between SEAMEO TROPMED Thailand and the International Medical Center of Japan.

**M. SEAMEO Secretariat, Thailand**

The Community Involvement Programme of SEAMEO Secretariat has focused on the strengthening of schools’ capacity and teachers’ capabilities in the three adopted schools in the provinces of Thailand: Chonkanyanukoon Saensuk School (Chonburi province), Ban Pruewai School (Chacheng Sao Province) and Ban Subsanoon School (Saraburi province).

To implement the programme, the SEAMEO Secretariat has also collaborated with SEAMEO Centres, private companies, public organizations and educational development agencies in providing technical assistance to the schools. These organizations are the Princess Sirindhorn’s Technology Information Project, Pintar Learning SDN BHD (Malaysia), Microsoft Thailand, Epson (Thailand) and the Office of Education Council, Ministry of Education, Thailand.

After the intervention of the SEAMEO Secretariat, the teachers of Ban Subsanoon schools received the following awards in the year 2009 at district and provincial level.

- Best Practices Awards for Teaching Science and Maths
- Best Teacher Awards by Saraburi Educational Service Area
- Role Model Teacher Awards for English and Thai Language Teacher
- Outstanding Library: Reading Promotion Campaign
- Outstanding Directorship Award to the Director of Ban Subsanoon School

**Fiscal Year 2008/2009**

The activities under the Community Involvement Programme in the FY2008/2009 conducted by the SEAMEO Secretariat included the following:

1) **Capacity Building Programmes for School Administrators, Teachers and Students**

In the last fiscal year, the training activities included as follows:

1.1 **Developing Teaching Skills and Techniques**

- The SEAMEO Secretariat coordinated with the Princess Sirindhorn’s Information Technology Project in the organisation of the training workshop on “Using CAI to Improve Teaching and Learning Strategies” for all teachers of Ban Pruewai and Ban Subsanoon School on 3-4 October 2008 and 10-11 October 2008, respectively.

Hands-on Training on Integrating Pintar Learning System with Lesson Plans  
23-24 October 2008, Ban Subsanoon School

- Three teachers of Ban Subsanoon School were selected to demonstrate and present the lesson plans by applying the Pintar Learning Programme for teaching Science and Mathematics for kindergarten, primary and secondary education at the presentation session on A New Dimension of Teaching and Learning Science and Mathematics at the Princess Sirindhorn’s Conference on 22 November 2008.

- The SEAMEO Secretariat sponsored teachers of adopted schools to participate in International Seminars/Conferences such as the “Regional Forum on Quality and Equity in Education” on 16-18 March 2009 and the “4th World Teachers’ Day Conference” on 24-26 March 2009. The participation allowed them to understand the current development of education in the region and to learn new teaching and learning strategies.

- The SEAMEO Secretariat supported teachers in the adopted schools to participate in the following workshop for developing teaching techniques and skills on project-based and student-centred learning approaches:
  - Workshop on Sharing Experience: ICT Pedagogy Integration (ICT Project Integration and Constructionism in School) organised by the Princess Sirindhorn’s Information Technology Projects on 26-29 April 2009,
  - Intensive Workshop on Science Camp, organised by the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology on 2-4 May 2009.

1.2 Conducting Life Skills Development Activities for Students:

The SEAMEO Secretariat conducted the Life Skills Development Activities for Students at Ban Subsanoon School on 7 November 2008. The activities aimed to improve life skills of students from Grades 1 to 9, totalling to 490 students. The life skills developed through the activities were team work, planning and thinking skill, communication skill, problem solving skill and social skills. The activities were conducted by all staff of the SEAMEO Secretariat.
2. Providing Resources

2.1 Teaching and Learning Materials and Equipment

The Secretariat has provided the following teaching and learning materials and equipment as follows:

- Two set of interactive whiteboard, LCD projector and interactive software programme for teaching Science and Math were donated to Ban Subsanoon School by Pintar Learning SDN BHD, Malaysia and Epson (Thailand).
- Educational software for teaching Math, Science, English, Technology and Social Science to all schools

2.2 Scholarships for Poor Students

The Secretariat solicited donations and provided financial support to poor students of the schools for the Academic Year 2009/2010, with the following details:

- Ban Pruewai School – 13,000 Baht (US$406) for 12 scholarship grants
- Ban Subsanoon School – 13,000 Baht (US$406) for 26 scholarship grants

3. Improving School Facilities

The Secretariat has provided assistance to upgrade the existing facilities of the schools as follows:

3.1 Improving the School Library

After several visits, the Secretariat learned that the reading capacity of students at Ban Pruewai School and Ban Subsanoon School is lower than the national standard. To help improve students’ performance, the Secretariat provided the following support to the two schools:

- Supervision to school directors and librarians to improve the reading environment in the library and develop activities to encourage students to visit the library
- Provision of book shelves, new books, and educational resources and games for libraries
3.2 Upgrading the School Computing Facilities

The Secretariat has provided assistance to upgrade the existing computing facilities of the schools as follows:

- Upgraded the computing room of Ban Pruewai School by providing used computers and renovating the computing room of the school
- Provided maintenance assistance for the computer facilities by sending IT staff to help diagnose and fix the computers at Ban Pruewai School