



Collaborative Projects to Reach the Unreached in Southeast Asia and Attain Education For All Goals by 2015

Project 1

Transition support for learners with disabilities



Lead Country: Malaysia

Target Group:
Learners with disabilities or with special educational needs

Activities:

Policy formulation, data collection, exchange programme and training, and establishment of a regional centre

LEAD COUNTRY/ FOCAL PERSON

Malaysia

Mr Mad Kassim Abd Malek
Special Education Division
Ministry of Education, Malaysia
Tel: +60 (3) 8884 9171
Mobile: +60 (012) 288 6697
Email: kassimmalek@yahoo.co.uk

Mrs Susilah Ahmad
Special Education Division
Ministry of Education, Malaysia
Tel: +60 (3) 8884 9170
Mobile: +60 (012) 241 8158
E-mail: susilah02@yahoo.com

PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES

Brunei Darussalam

Dr Hajah Rohani binti Haji Awang Mat Zin
Ministry of Education
Brunei Darussalam
Email: rohani.matzin@ubd.edu.bn
Tel: +673-2463001 Ext. 1563
+673-8735435 (handphone)

Indonesia (contact details to follow)

Lao PDR

Mrs Yangxia Lee
Director, Center for Promotion of Education Ethnic-Women-Disabled People
Ministry of Education, Lao PDR
Tel: +856 (21) 251 498
Mobile: +856 (20) 990 0783
E-mail: yangxialee@yahoo.com

Philippines

Dr Yolanda Quijano
Director, Bureau of Elementary Education, Department of Education, Philippines
Tel: +63 (2) 633 7270
E-mail: bee_deped@pltdsl.net

Timor Leste (contact details to follow)

Vietnam

Dr Nguyen Duc Minh
Senior Expert, Secondary Education Dept
Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam
Mob: +84 (91) 207 3500
Fax: +84 (4) 3572 3521
E-mail: minhvision@fpt.vn

COOPERATING SEAMEO REGIONAL CENTRE

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology (SEAMEO BIOTROP)

Dr Bambang Purwantara
Centre Director
Jalan Raya Tajur, Km 6
P O Box 116, Bogor, Indonesia
Tel: +62 (251) 832-3848, 837-1654, 831-9422, 838-4379
Fax: +62 (251) 832-6851
E-mail: gau@biotrop.org

COOPERATING EFA PARTNERS/INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

Disability Action Council

Mr Sokhim Ou
Programme Coordinator for Inclusive Education
86, St 99 Phsar Deom Thkov, Khan Chamcar Morn
P O Box 115, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
Tel: +855 (12) 403 595
Fax: +855 (23) 214 722
E-mail: ousokhim@dac.org.kh

UNESCO Institute for Statistics- Assessment, Information Systems, Monitoring and Statistics (UIS-AIMS)

Mr Simon Ellis
UNESCO Institute for Statistics Asia Pacific Regional Advisor/ Head, AIMS Unit
920 Sukhumvit Road
Bangkok, 10110, Thailand
Tel: +66 (0) 2391 0577, ext. 201
E-mail: s.ellis@unescoykk.org

Ms Leotes Lugo Helin
Assistant Programme Specialist
Tel: +66 (0) 2391 0577, ext. 236
E-mail: l.lugo-helin@unescoykk.org

PROGRESS REPORT by LEAD COUNTRY (As of November 2010)

Name of Project : **Project 1 - Transition Support Programme for Learners with Disabilities**
Lead Country : **Malaysia**

A. Accomplishments and Activities Conducted

A seminar themed "Transition Support Programme (*from School to Workplace*) for Learners with Disabilities", hosted by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia, had been conducted on 24 – 28 October 2010 in Malacca, Malaysia. This event managed to draw participation of more than 70 researchers, educationists, policy makers and members of non-governmental organizations from six SEAMEO Member Countries: Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.

The seminar included keynote speeches, country report presentations, group discussions and school visits. Keynotes speakers at this seminar were Professor Dr. Michael Churton (*Professor of Special Education, The University of South Florida, USA*), Ms. Yeo Swee Lan (*Lead Coordinator, United Voice, Kuala Lumpur*), Ms. Juairiah Johari (*Special Education Coordinator, Sunway Secondary School, Malaysia*) and Mr. Bernard Paul (*Government Relations and Corporate Event, Sunway Group Malaysia*).

The seminar also saw presentations of country report from each participating country on current situations, challenges and future perspectives in the implementation of transition support programme (*from school to workplace*) for learners with disabilities. This enlightening session allowed participants to understand efforts adopted by other countries as well as served as a platform for the sharing of ideas and opinions. Countries which have not embarked on a transition support programme are intended to do so.

During group discussions, representatives from SEAMEO Member Countries deliberated on various aspects of transition support programme including policy formulation, data collection and regional collaboration pertaining to the seminar theme. Subsequently, the group has arrived upon a list of recommendations (See Section C).

B. Implementation Challenges and Other Issues

Among the challenges in the implementation of transition support programmes (*from school to workplace*) for learners with disabilities noted by participants were:-

1. the lack of accurate data on school age children with disabilities;
2. the lack of clear policy and guidelines on transition support programme for learners with disabilities;
3. low priority given to disability-related programme among employers/employment agencies; and
4. emerging needs of capacity building.

Apart from the challenges aforementioned, there were countries citing difficulties in ensuring children completing their primary education much less secondary education programme. As a result many parents resort to giving their children vocational education.

C. Recommendations to Enhance Implementation

In response to the challenges identified in the implementation of transition support programme for learners with disabilities, the group consisting of representatives from SEAMEO Member Countries recommended that:

1. Every SEAMEO Member Country comes up with an action plan to achieve the following by 2015:
 - 1.1. To provide learners with disabilities with education and support programmes to assist their transition from school;
 - 1.2. To conduct a 'Child Find' for children with disabilities from birth to school age; and
 - 1.3. To set up a confidential and secured national data registry on persons with disabilities.
2. SEAMEO Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN) to be the regional resource centre to:-
 - 2.1. provide specialist support and resources to member nations to develop transition support programmes for learners with disabilities;
 - 2.2. assist member nations to conduct skills training for teachers to develop and implement individualised transition support programme;
 - 2.3. to create an online portal to achieve the following :
 - 2.3.1. annual journal on best practices in transition support programme; and
 - 2.3.2. to facilitate networking among member nations.