

**Reaching the Unreached 2:
Regional Meeting of Southeast Asian Countries to Accelerate the Attainment
of Education For All Goals**

20-21 June 2011

Four Wings Hotel Bangkok, Sukhumvit 26 Road, Bangkok, Thailand

INFORMATION NOTE



A. Background

In March 2008, the Southeast Asian Education Ministers expressed commitment through a joint statement during the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference and 3rd ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia to focus future cooperation on implementing Education For All, particularly in addressing the educational needs of those population groups that are disadvantaged and remain “unreached”. This declaration was prompted by UNESCO’s presentation of the key recommendations from Southeast Asia’s EFA Mid-Term Policy Review Conference in Jomtien, Thailand.

In September 2008, the SEAMEO Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok and ASEAN Secretariat jointly organized a regional meeting in Bangkok, Thailand that was attended by 70 high-level education officials from SEAMEO Member Countries and EFA partners to share common challenges and identify strategies and activities to address those challenges. The concrete steps were drafted into 10 collaborative project proposals that aimed at addressing the needs of various unreached and disadvantaged population groups in Southeast Asia. The SEAMEO Council endorsed the 10 project proposals at the 44th SEAMEO Council Conference in April 2009 in Phuket, Thailand. The SEAMEO Council also approved the identified Lead and Participating Countries for each project as well as cooperating SEAMEO Regional Centres and EFA partners.

The launch of the 10 collaborative projects started the coordinated regional approach of SEAMEO to meeting the Education For All (EFA) Goals. Since then, activities have been initiated by the Lead Countries in cooperation with relevant SEAMEO Regional Centres and EFA partners and international organizations. The SEAMEO Secretariat and UNESCO Bangkok continue to assist in coordinating the implementation of the collaborative projects with the Lead Countries; and provide support in establishing partnerships for potential financial and technical assistance. Some projects have achieved substantial progress; however, some projects have not progressed very well due to various reasons such as difficulty of coordination among Lead and Participating Countries, lack of financial resources to implement the projects, and others.

B. Reaching the Unreached 2: Regional Meeting of Southeast Asian Countries to Accelerate the Attainment of Education For All Goals

With few years remaining before the 2015 target of the Education For all Movement, there is a need to promote greater cooperation on the implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects in order to accelerate the attainment of the EFA Goals, particularly SEAMEO's commitment to reach the unreached and the disadvantaged population groups in Southeast Asia.

In January 2011, the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference noted the progress of the implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects to Reach the Unreached and expressed commitment to continue to work together through the 10 Collaborative Projects and help achieve the EFA Goals. The SEAMEO Council also approved the conduct of a regional follow-up meeting on cost-sharing arrangement to accelerate implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects and promote greater cooperation.

The follow-up regional meeting dubbed as ***“Reaching the Unreached 2”*** will once again bring together in one venue the SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Regional Centres, Education for All partners, and other stakeholders to discuss on ways to promote greater and more effective collaboration and ensure the successful implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects.

C. Meeting Objectives

The *Reaching the Unreached 2* is a follow-up to the 2008 Reaching the Unreached Regional Meeting. After more than 2 years, it is deemed necessary to assess the extent of implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects developed during that year. Specifically, the *Reaching the Unreached 2* aims to:

1. Report on progress of the 10 Collaborative Projects highlighting accomplishments, lessons learned, recommendations and issues;
2. Review implementation plans and identify gaps and challenges;
3. Identify new strategies and activities (if needed) based on the result of Objective 2 while taking into consideration recommendations from various forums on EFA such as those of SEAMEO, UNESCO and others;
4. Provide recommendations to improve overall project implementation and consolidate them into a joint plan or roadmap to help achieve the EFA goals in SEAMEO Member Countries; and
5. Agree on a mechanism to monitor and coordinate implementation of the 10 Collaborative Projects.

The regional meeting will be held back-to-back with UNESCO's EFA 2015 Assessment Strategic Planning Meeting that aims to bring together selected country representatives, key experts, specialists and leaders from active EFA stakeholder organizations in the region and beyond for consultation on the development of an overall regional strategy for supporting and facilitating an EFA 2015 National Assessment in the Asia-Pacific Region, especially through a programme of building national capacity and ownership for country-led and -managed assessment process. The meeting will also serve as a venue to further foster south-south collaboration.

D. Expected Output

Working in project groups and using agreements of participants and results from various discussions at the regional meeting, the following are expected to be produced:

1. Revised project implementation plans (for Projects 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10) and follow-up activities (for Projects 1 and 3).

2. Updated list and contact details of focal persons (for Lead and Participating Countries, and EFA partners)
3. A joint plan or roadmap based on recommendations how to improve overall project implementation (linking efforts of Lead Countries, SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO Regional Centres, EFA partners and others)
4. Monitoring and coordination plan

E. Tentative Programme

Date	Session/Activity
20 June 2011 (Mon)	<p>A. Opening Programme</p> <p>B. Plenary Session 1: Country Reporting on the Implementation of the Collaborative Projects</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Malaysia on Projects 1 and 3 2) Philippines on Projects 2 and 10 3) Vietnam on Project 4 4) Brunei Darussalam on Project 5 5) Lao PDR on Project 6 6) Indonesia on Projects 8 and 10 7) Thailand on Projects 7 and 9 <p>C. Plenary Session 2: Reviewing the Collaborative Project Plans and Identifying Gaps and Challenges</p> <p>D. Panel Discussion: Reaching the Unreached in Southeast Asia and Accelerating the Attainment of EFA Goals</p> <p>Key Inputs and Presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) UNESCO 2) Thematic Working Group on EFA 3) SEAMEO Regional Centre/s 4) ASEAN Secretariat <p>Open Forum on the key presentations by panelists</p>
21 June 2011 (Tue)	<p>E. Workshop 1: Identifying New Strategies and Activities to Reach the Unreached and Accelerate Attainment of EFA in Southeast Asia through the 10 Collaborative Projects</p> <p>F. Plenary Session 3: Presentation of Revised/New Project Plans</p> <p>G. Closing Programme</p>

F. Participants

Participants will include focal persons of the 10 Collaborative Projects, directors and key officials of SEAMEO Centres, representatives from EFA partners and international organizations, representatives from UNESCO Bangkok, ASEAN Secretariat and the SEAMEO Secretariat.

Two or three (2 or 3) participants from each SEAMEO Member Country are invited to participate. In addition to the project focal persons, preferred participants from the Ministry/Department of Education are the SEAMEO High Officials, EFA National Coordinators/Focal Persons, and Directors of Planning or Curriculum. Representatives from some Associate and Affiliate Members of SEAMEO will also be invited.

G. Date and Venue

The meeting will be held at the **Four Wings Hotel Bangkok, Sukhumvit 26 Road, Bangkok, Thailand on 20-21 June 2011**. Participants are expected to arrive and check in at the venue in the afternoon of 19 June 2011. Check out is in the morning of 22 June 2011 except for participants who will attend the UNESCO meeting.

The EFA 2015 Assessment Strategic Planning Meeting organized by UNESCO is on 23-25 June 2011 at the same venue.

The address and contact details of the hotel are as follows:

The Four Wings Hotel Bangkok

40 Sukhumvit Road 26

Klongtoey, Bangkok 10110 Thailand

Tel: (02) 260-2100 Fax: (02) 260-2343

Website: www.fourwingshotel.com

H. Accommodation, Meals and Travel Expenses

The regional meeting will be conducted on cost-sharing arrangement. The SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Regional Centres, Education for All partners, and other stakeholders are requested to kindly shoulder their respective transportation expenses.

Transportation expenses of country participants from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Timor Leste and Vietnam will be subsidized by the SEAMEO Secretariat. Upon confirmation of names of participants from these countries, the SEAMEO Secretariat will contact the nominated participants for issuance of electronic air tickets.

The SEAMEO Secretariat will also provide accommodation to participants from SEAMEO Member Countries and Regional Centres for 3 nights (19, 20 and 21 June), and lunches and snacks to all participants for the 2-day duration of the meeting. A welcome dinner will also be served on 20 June.

I. Registration Procedure

Please accomplish the Registration Form completely and send electronic copy with photo to secretariat@seameo.org, cc abigail@seameo.org or abilanceta@gmail.com by 13 June 2011.

J. Contact Persons

For further information, please contact:

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Working Together to Reach the Unreached and Provide Education for All in Southeast Asia

