Institutional-level harmonisation taking place with Member Countries investing in strengthening higher education institutions with each institutions determining their most important needs, supported by research, in order to be able to coordinate and set quality standards with other institutions.
SEAMEO Secretariat has conducted a study on the foresight of education in Southeast Asia using a ‘futuristic methodology’. The results of the study were summarised to key messages and endorsed by the SEAMEO Executive Committee (EC) on 28 August 2014. These key messages were presented as a background document of the SEAMEO Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM) held on 13 September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR. Participants of the meeting included SEAMEO Member Countries and observers from Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Secretariat.

The seven Priority Areas were subsequently taken note at the 37th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting 2014 and presented to SEAMEO Council at the 48th SEAMEO Council Conference in 2015. In the session of the Ministerial Round Table Meeting, SEAMEO Council endorsed these seven Priority Areas of SEAMEO and announced five recommendations for its implementation starting Fiscal Year 2015/2016.

1. Achieving universal early childhood care and education;
2. Addressing barriers to inclusion;
3. Resiliency in the face of emergencies;
4. Promoting technical and vocational education and training;
5. Revitalising teacher education;
6. Harmonising higher education and research; and

**Background**

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**SEAMEO Council’s 5 Recommendations**

1. Utilising the 21 SEAMEO Regional Centres as the mechanism to implement the seven Priority Areas at the national, regional level and beyond, and synergising with ASEAN.
2. Linking the seven Priority Areas with the curriculum and moving towards global citizenship.
3. Involvement of parents in the education system through the “partnering with parents” initiatives to foster common understanding on quality education to the parents in the education of their children.
4. Promoting teachers and school leaders’ competency standards in SEAMEO Member Countries.
5. Mobilising and sharing of knowledge, skills and best practices among SEAMEO Member Countries, namely in the areas of TVET, English proficiency skills, digital competencies, 21st Century and employability skills.
## Priority 6 Implementation timeline as of November 2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strategic Approaches</th>
<th>Responsible Units</th>
<th>Timeline</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Develop Communities of Practice in Research and Development on Critical Areas of Concern among SEA Universities</td>
<td>SEAMEO BIOTROP</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strengthen academic –industry linkages</td>
<td>SEAMEO BIOTROP</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilize Research and Development to develop Open Education Resources (OER) in Higher Education</td>
<td>SEAMEO Secretariat SEAMEO INNOTECH</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enhance and expand SEAMEO ASEAN International Mobility for Students (AIMS) Programme enhanced and expanded</td>
<td>SEAMEO RIHED</td>
<td>On-going</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developed SEAMEO credit transfer framework for ASIA + SHARE</td>
<td>SEAMEO Secretariat SEAMEO RIHED</td>
<td>2016-2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Develop Quality Assurance for Health professions aligned and developed</td>
<td>SEAMEO TROPMED</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Institutionalize SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network (CPRN)</td>
<td>SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote internationalisation, recognition and mobility in post secondary/higher education in the region and beyond</td>
<td>SEAMEO RIHED</td>
<td>2016-2020</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Contact Person at SEAMEO Secretariat

**Promoting Harmonisation in Higher Education and Research**

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