SEAMEO RECSAM Executive Summary

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics

2011 CENTRE DIRECTORS’ MEETING

F.Y. 2010/2011

5 - 7 July 2011
Bangkok, Thailand
2011 CENTRE DIRECTORS’ MEETING

5 - 7 July 2011
S31 Sukhumvit Hotel
Bangkok, Thailand

SEAMEO RECSAM
Executive Summary
F.Y. 2010 / 2011
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SEAMEO RECSAM continued to conduct its training courses with emphasis on innovative teaching and learning strategies, technology-integrated learning, problem-based learning and lesson study to improve science and mathematics teaching in primary and secondary schools.

This report is a summary of the achievements of RECSAM for F.Y. 2010/2011 and bears testimony to the Centre’s mandated role of enhancing the quality of science and mathematics education in the region.

For the fiscal year in review, RECSAM successfully conducted 4 regular courses. The Centre’s regular courses had a participation of 78 educators from the SEAMEO member countries. The centre also conducted five in-country courses this fiscal year with a total number of 197 participants.

RECSAM also organised the Post-Graduate Diploma of Education in Teaching Science and Mathematics (TeSMe) programme for teacher/educators from Aceh under the sponsorship of Human Resource Development Commission (HRDC) Aceh, Indonesia on a six-month intensive full time basis. Fifteen of them continued for another 4 months at Deakin University, Australia to complete a Master of Education Programme. Training workshops were conducted for Malaysian teachers by our academic staff and foreign consultants, who rendered their expertise to the needs of Southeast Asian educators.

The Joint RECSAM-ICASE Seminar 2011 took off on a sure footing with an apt theme of “Innovations in Science and Technology Education (STE) for the 21st Century”. Held at RECSAM on 16 and 17 February 2011, the Seminar was attended by 63 participants with one keynote address and nine plenary sessions. The event jointly-organised by RECSAM and ICASE (International Council of Association for Science Education) also brought together ICASE Executive Members from Nigeria, USA, Estonia, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil as paper presenters.

Research efforts focused on strategic issues of regional importance and the Centre relied on partnerships and collaborations to implement studies. During this fiscal year, several main research projects were successfully completed. Besides that, the R&D Division also regularly conducted programme evaluations at the end of all courses, conferences, workshops and seminars.

Financial viability continued to be the Centre’s perennial encumbrance as it strove to operate to its maximum potential on a limited budget. The total revenue decreased by 8.0% from RM2,061,654.30 in the last fiscal year to RM1,896,722.00 during this fiscal year.

Staff strength stood at 89 as of 30 June 2011, where five Specialists, one Programme Officer, one Research Officer, one Assistant Executive and two support staff were hired in order to provide adequate support.
One way of measuring up to challenges from within and without and to maintain its international ranking was for the professional experts to enhance their capacities and skills in order to empower the region’s teachers to keep pace with global advancement in education, particularly in Science and Mathematics. For this fiscal year, the Centre invested in about 32 of such programmes for the academic staff.

In addition, academic publications and promotional materials were widely distributed. The teachers’ guidebook on Integrating Climate Change Issues in Southeast Asian Schools, funded by SEAMEO Secretariat was also published in November 2010. Details on training courses and other activities were posted on the website.

In our attempts to making RECSAM hold a credible image parallel to its quality services, a number of facelifts had taken place in terms of repainting the buildings, improving the administration building, upgrading of facilities and security system at the International House and improving the ICT equipment.

The Centre places on record its appreciation to the Ministry of Education, Malaysia for its support and RECSAM’s Governing Board Members for their support. The Centre would also like to thank the SEAMEO Secretariat for its support and guidance and to our sponsors, stakeholders and linkage partners, who has contributed immensely to our growth.

All in all, the Centre had successfully accomplished all its mandated programmes and projects for the year under review, and improved upon its overall performance.

Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah
Centre Director
SEAMEO RECSAM
KRA 1: REGIONAL LEADERSHIP

1.1 Capacity Building

1.1.1 Regular Courses

RECSAM successfully conducted its four regular courses for a total of 78 educators across all SEAMEO member countries. The duration of the courses was for a period of four weeks.

Details of the regular courses conducted:

- RC-SS-135-1 Making Sense of Secondary Science Through Inquiry: Problem-Based Learning at Work
- RC-PM-135-2 Developing Mathematical Processes for Enhancing Sustainable and Responsible Learning in Primary Classrooms
- RC-PM-135-4 Lesson Study: Improving Instructional Practices in Primary Mathematics Classrooms

Fiscal Year 2010/2011 (4 - 29 April 2011)

Table 1: Number of Regular Courses and Participants for Three Fiscal Years

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fiscal Year</th>
<th>Courses</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td>Fee-Paying</td>
<td>On Scholarship</td>
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<tr>
<td>2008/2009</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010/2011</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>75</td>
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1.1.2 In-Country Courses

RECSAM conducted five in-country courses during this fiscal year.

- The Brunei in-country training course on “Active Teaching and Learning in Science for Secondary School Teachers” was conducted at Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah Institute of Education, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Brunei Darussalam from 27 September - 1 October 2010 for 40 secondary science teachers. This in-country training course was organised and sponsored by Human Resource Development Section of Brunei Darussalam’s Ministry of Education and conducted by RECSAM’s Specialists, Mr. Dominador D. Mangao and Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan. The purpose of this
programme was to provide opportunity for the participants to: (i) model active teaching and learning approaches in science (ii) reinvent their techniques and skills to guide students to carry out scientific inquiry and (iii) become familiar with a range of teaching-learning and assessment strategies.

- The Indonesia in-country training course on “Active Teaching & Learning in Primary Science” was conducted at SD Islam Al- Azhar 13 Rawamangun, Jakarta Timur, Indonesia from 29 November - 3 December 2010 for 50 primary science teachers. This in-country training course was organised by the Office of the Directorate of Kindergarten and Primary School Development, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia and conducted by RECSAM’s Specialists, Mr. Dominador D. Mangao and Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan and Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Volunteer based at RECSAM. The purpose of this training programme was to introduce participants to a wide range of active teaching and learning approaches designed to enhance students’ learning in the science classroom.

- The Philippines in-country course for primary science teachers on Active Teaching & Learning was held at Tagaytay International Convention Centre, Tagaytay City, Philippines from 13 - 16 December 2010. This in-country training course was organised by the Bureau of Elementary Education (BEE), Staff Development Division (SDD) of the Department of Education, Philippines. This in-country training course was conducted by Ms. Foo Lay Kuan, Deputy Director (Training Programme) and Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division. The training course introduced participants to a wide range of active teaching and learning approaches designed to enhance students’ learning in the science classroom. Twenty nine teachers from the Special Science Primary Schools attended this training course.

- The Brunei In-Country Training Course for Primary Mathematics Teachers on Realistic Mathematics Education (RME) for Meaningful Learning in Primary Mathematics was held at Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam, from 17 - 20 January 2011. This 4-day course was organised by the Human Resource Development Division, and the course was coordinated by Mr. Awang Faisal bin Jackariah of the Human Resource Development Division. The course was facilitated by two mathematics education Specialists, Mr. Teoh Boon Tat and Dr. Leong Chee Kin, from the Training Programme Division. This training course introduced
participants to a teaching and learning approach in mathematics education which promotes the importance of concept formation and problem solving. A total of 42 primary mathematics teachers took part in the course.

• An in-country training workshop on “Action-Research: Enhancing Teaching & Learning in the Science & Mathematics Classroom & Resolving Classroom Problems” was conducted for 36 secondary teachers from Bangkok at Cholchan Pattaya Resort, Pattaya, Chonburi, Thailand from 7 - 11 March 2011. This in-country training course was organised by the Science Institute under the Bureau of Academic Affairs and Educational Standards Office of the Basic Education Commission, Thailand. RECSAM’s R&D Specialists, Mr. Julito C. Aligaen and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao conducted the 5-day workshop. This training workshop was aimed at providing the participants the knowledge and skills in innovation to enable them to design, conduct, and write action research reports.

1.1.3 Customised Courses

RECSAM is equally committed in extending its expertise in support of requests from member countries, funding agencies and institutions. During the fiscal year 2010/2011, a total of three customised courses were successfully conducted.

• Three customised courses for Indonesian Secondary Science and Mathematics Educators entitled: (i) Enhancing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in Secondary Science via Information and Communications Technology (Biology Group), (ii) Enhancing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) in Secondary Science via Information and Communications Technology (Physics Group) and (iii) Enhancing Higher Order Thinking Skills (HOTS) and Creative Problem Solving in the Student-Centred Secondary Mathematics Classrooms were conducted at RECSAM from 1 - 26 November 2010. Twenty three participants attended the Biology Group training under Mr. Dominador Dizon Mangao’s supervision, 20 participants attended the Physics Group training under Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan’s supervision and 22 participants attended the Mathematics Group training under Mr. Teoh Boon Tat’s supervision. These training programmes were sponsored by the Ministry of National Education of Indonesia.

• Three customised courses for Indonesian Science and Mathematics Teachers entitled: (i) Effective, Constructivist and Meaningful Mathematics Teaching, (ii) Effective, Constructivist and Meaningful Biology Teaching and (iii)
Constructivist Physics Teaching and Learning were conducted at RECSAM from 13 - 17 December 2010 for 112 participants from Semarang, Indonesia. Forty seven participants attended the mathematics training course under Assoc. Prof. Dr. Noor Shah bin Saad’s supervision, 29 participants attended the biology training course under Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ong Eng Tek’s supervision while 36 attended the physics training course under Dr. Nurulhuda bt. Abd. Rahman’s supervision. These training programmes were sponsored by the Ministry of National Education of Indonesia and were conducted in partnership with Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI).

- Two customised courses entitled: (i) Professional Development Programme for Indonesian (Aceh) Secondary Science Educators and (ii) Professional Development Programme for Indonesian (Aceh) Secondary Mathematics Educators were conducted by RECSAM for 44 Aceh educators from 14 March - 6 May 2011. These training courses were designed to enhance their skills in teaching science and mathematics. The course was made possible through the sponsorship of the Government of Aceh, Indonesia.

1.1.4 Third Country Training Programme (TCTP)

During the fiscal year 2010/2011, four Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) courses were conducted.

- Two TCTP courses entitled: (i) Primary Mathematics Teacher Educators Training and (ii) Primary Science Teacher Educators Training were conducted by RECSAM for 30 teacher educators from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, Sudan and Zambia from 12 July 2010 - 6 August 2010. Sixteen science teacher educators attended the Primary Science Teacher Educators Training under Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan’s supervision while the other fourteen participants attended the Mathematics Teacher Educators Training under the supervision of Mr. Teoh Boon Tat. The purpose of this programme was to provide opportunities for these educators to explore alternative and promising classroom practices propagated by RECSAM. This training programme was jointly organised by MTCP (Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme) and JICA (Japan International Co-operation Agency).

- TCTP courses entitled (i) Professional Development Programme for Secondary Science Educators and (ii) Professional Development Programme for Secondary
Mathematics Educators were conducted by RECSAM from 18 October - 12 November 2010. Sixteen science teacher educators attended the Professional Development Programme for Secondary Science Educators training under Mr. C. Annamalai’s supervision while the other 15 teacher educators attended the Professional Development Programme for Secondary Mathematics Educators training under the supervision of Dr. Leong Chee Kin. This one-month in-service training programmes were jointly organised by Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP), Colombo Plan Secretariat and OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID).

1.1.5 Post-Graduate Diploma of Education in Teaching Science and Mathematics (TeSMe)

A Post-Graduate Diploma of Education in Teaching Science and Mathematics (TeSMe) programme for science and mathematics educators which was sponsored by Human Resource Commission (HRDC) Aceh, Indonesia was conducted by RECSAM on a six-month intensive full-time basis from 1 March to 20 August 2010. This programme received a total of 17 participants. Fifteen of the candidates who completed the six-month programme with a CGPA of 3.0 and above and obtained an IELTS score of Band 6 and above went on to pursue a four month intensive course at Deakin University, Australia and were awarded a Master of Education in Science/Mathematics.

1.1.6 Conferences / Congress / Seminars / Workshops

Conferences, congress, seminars and workshops were regularly convened at RECSAM. This was part of RECSAM’s role in hosting workshops and seminars from well-known academicians of reputable educational institutions. These events were normally held within a few days with the aim to provide an alternative scope for learning. Among the conferences, workshops and seminars held at RECSAM on a periodical basis were:

- A workshop entitled: “Serious Games for Education Development” by Mr. David Wortley from Serious Games Institute, Coventry University, UK on 14 and 15 July 2010. This workshop was designed to provide participants with an understanding of the processes involved in developing serious games for education and included practical experience of developing a learning game using Caspian’s Thinking Worlds technology platform. A total of 15 teacher educators attended the 2-day workshop.
• A workshop entitled: Errors in Misconceptions in Mathematics: How to Use Error Patterns to Help Students Learn for 55 primary mathematics teachers and educators from Rajabhat Mahasarakam University, Thailand by Ms. Francilyn O'Brien, a mathematics educator from California, USA on 19 and 20 October 2010. The workshop was aimed to help teachers improve their mathematics instruction by becoming more diagnostically oriented.

• A two-day workshop on: Effective Use of GeoGebra in the Classroom for secondary mathematics teachers and teacher educators on 25 and 26 October 2010 by Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division. Participants were taught how to use the basic features of GeoGebra and its effective use of dynamic worksheets as designed by others. Twenty one participants (comprising of Colombo Plan participants and State Education Department officers from the various states in Malaysia) benefited from the workshop.

• Two workshops entitled: Web 2.0: A New Wave of Innovation for Teaching and Learning Science by Mr. C. Annamalai, Specialist from Training Programme Division was held at RECSAM on 27 & 28 October 2010 and 11 & 12 April 2011 respectively. Participants were exposed to Web 2.0 and were given opportunities to explore the possibilities of using Web 2.0 for different learning objectives. Twenty eight participants attended the first workshop and 21 participants attended the second workshop.

• The Joint RECSAM-ICASE Seminar 2011 with the theme “Innovations in Science and Technology Education (STE) for the 21st Century” was held at RECSAM on 16 and 17 February 2011. The Seminar was attended by 63 participants with one keynote address and nine plenary sessions. The event was jointly-organised by RECSAM and ICASE (International Council of Association for Science Education) Nine ICASE Executive Members who made paper presentation at the 3rd ICASE World Conference were invited to present their papers at the seminar. The Centre also hosted the ICASE Executive Members Meeting on 18 and 19 February 2011.

• Two workshops entitled: (i) “Talking Science, Thinking Science: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic” and (ii) “Talking Mathematics, Thinking Mathematics: Making Teaching and Learning More Dialogic” were held on 14 and 15 March 2011 respectively by Mr. Stuart Naylor from Millgate
House Education, UK. Workshop participants were exposed to a wide range of suitable strategies that are well known, such as poster or card sorts, and others that are unique such as Concept Cartoons and Dear Doctor. These workshops received a total number of 63 participants (for Science group) and 56 participants (for Mathematics group) respectively.

- A workshop entitled: Creativity in Mathematics Education for primary school mathematics educators by Ms. Teoh Poh Yew, a very experienced international speaker in the fields of creativity, training of trainers and mathematics education held on 11 & 12 April 2011. Approaches that were shared during the workshop were mathematical magic, games and puzzles. Participants were also exposed to different possibilities of using the same magic/puzzle/games to inspire students of different grades and varying levels of ability for different learning objectives. A total of 79 participants benefitted from the workshop.

- Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) based at RECSAM recently conducted a workshop entitled: “Creative Toys for Learning Science: Science Popularisation Through Low-Cost and Locally Available Materials” on 13 & 14 April 2011 for 80 science educators. Workshop participants were exposed to well designed inexpensive teaching and learning materials (TLMs) that enabled them to conduct interesting science lessons through group or individual activities.

- A lesson study seminar-workshop for science teachers was conducted by staff of RECSAM on 16 April 2011. Its aim was to orient the participants about expanding good practices in teaching science, inquiry-based learning, basic principles and processes of implementing lesson study, as well as the challenges involved in doing lesson study for improving classroom instruction and helping students learn better. A total of 80 participants attended the seminar-workshop.

- A seminar-workshop on “Enhancing 21st Century Skills in Teaching and Learning” was conducted by RECSAM for 73 delegates from Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, Thailand (consisted of Lecturers, Asst. Professors, Assoc. Professors and Professors of Faculty of Education from 23 - 26 May 2011. The following sharing sessions were conducted by our Specialists:
- *Education for Sustainable Development* by Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme

- *Universal Design for Students’ Learning* by Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Co-operation Agency (JICA) based at RECSAM

- *Lesson Study: Professional Development for In-service Teachers* by Dr. Cheah Ui Hock and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao, Specialists from R&D Division

- A seminar entitled: “Utilising the TIMSS (Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) to Improve Teaching and Learning in the Mathematics Classroom and the Curriculum” by Dr. Patsy Wang-Iverson, Vice President for Special Projects at the Gabriella and Paul Rosenbaum Foundation was held at RECSAM on 7 June 2011 for 90 teachers, teacher educators and researchers involved in mathematics education. The seminar participants were introduced how to improve student learning accompanied by ‘aha moments’ that encourages students identify their error and to self-correct.

- A workshop entitled: Going Global in SEARCH for Science and Mathematics Researchers for a Sustainable Future: Development of e-Learning Resource Materials to Promote ESD (Education for Sustainable Development) and EFA (Education for All) for secondary/primary science/mathematics educators was conducted by Prof. Dr. Rozhan M. Idrus from School of Distance Education, Universiti Sains Malaysia from 21 to 24 June 2011 and followed by a seminar on “Blended Learning: Rebranding Learning for the 21st Century” by Prof. Dr. Zoraini Wati Abas from Open University Malaysia and Dr. Kim Phaik Lah from Vision Academy (M) Sdn. Bhd. An official launching of SEARCH Web Portal by Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director of RECSAM was held on 27 June 2011. This event was organised by RECSAM under the research grant for ‘SEARCH’ and supported by UNESCO and Japan Funds-in-Trust. The workshop was designed to expose participants to ESD-related issues (e.g. values-based water education, climate change, etc.) that could be used to promote students’ investigation and PBA/PBL activities. A total of 52 teacher educators attended this workshop.

- A workshop for science teachers and educators on “What Learning about learning Teaches about Teaching” by Dr. Jon A. Scaife from University of Sheffield, England was held at RECSAM from 29 - 30 June 2011. Approaches that were
shared during the workshop were diagnostic assessment and related processes of diagnostic teaching. A total of 56 participants benefitted from the workshop.

1.1.7 Colloquium

- Ms. Shirley Gilbert, a teacher trainer from School of Education, University of Western Sydney, Australia gave a talk on “Looking at Teaching in ‘Poverty’ in Australia Schools – Science Education in an Inner City School” held at RECSAM on 6 July 2010. A total of 74 participants attended the talk.

- Ms. Ng Khar Thoe, Science Education Specialist from Research & Development Division gave a talk on “Promoting Culture for Investigative Research – Lesson Learnt from Japan” which was held in RECSAM on 30 July 2010. The essence of the topic was based on the experience and what Ms. Ng learned from Japan after a month of attachment as a “Visiting Foreign Research Fellow” at the University of Tsukuba, Japan. The talk was attended by more than 105 school teachers, lecturers from Teacher Training Institute and RECSAM academic staff.

- Mr. Julito Aligaen, R&D Specialist from RECSAM gave a talk on Lifelong Learning System: Learner Centred “School Field School” held at RECSAM on 28 October 2010. Twenty six participants attended the talk.

- Dr. Fong Ho Keong, Mathematics Specialist from Training Programme Division gave a talk on “Cultivating Creativity through Mathematical Problem Solving” on 18 April 2011. A total of 108 participants attended this talk.

- Mr. Jim Mennie from Root Seven Educational Services, Canada gave a talk on “Do Current Trends in Assessing Student Learning Mean an End to Paper and Pencil Tests? - A Brief Look at Assessment Options” in a colloquium organised by RECSAM on 31 January 2011. A total of 36 participants attended the talk.

1.2 Research and Development (R&D)

RECSAM conducts programme evaluations at the end of courses, conferences, workshops and seminars. These are used as benchmark for improvement on future programmes. Evaluation Reports were prepared for 3 customised courses, 2 TCTP courses, the Joint RECSAM-ICASE Seminar, and the Australian Trainee Pre-Service Teachers Overseas Educational and Cultural Tour Programme. The evaluation report for the Regular Courses is in the final stages of completion.
The Impact Study Report is an important summative feedback of the Regular Courses and is based on data collected after at least six months after the conclusion of the Regular Course. Questionnaires were sent to all one hundred and seventy four Regular Course participants of F.Y. 2007/2008 and F.Y. 2008/2009. Fifty seven completed questionnaires from the participants were received. The report was completed in October 2010 and presented at the 41st Governing Board Meeting.

The Second Phase of the Lesson Study Project was carried out intensively by the centre from early 2010. In this phase the focus would be to popularise Lesson Study so that it would be adopted as one of the Staff Development Programmes of the schools. Three primary schools in Penang were involved. This was a follow-up of the First Phase which involved six primary schools in Penang.

A Teacher’s Guide Book “Integrating Climate Change Issues in Southeast Asian Schools” was developed and 200 copies published in November 2010. It was presented during the High Official Meeting (HOM) in the same year and SEAMEO Council Conference in Brunei Darussalam in March 2011. In this guidebook seven major issues of climate change were identified to be focal issues for climate change to be integrated into teaching and learning. Included in each chapter are 3 lesson plans which have been tested in the schools. As a follow up to the project, RECSAM is developing a proposal for Training of Trainers (ToT) on the use of this Teachers’ Guidebook which will be presented during the CDM 2011.

Phase 2 (1st July 2010 to 30th June 2011) of the project to develop an on-line learning hub entitled “South East Asia Regional Capacity-enhancement Hub” (SEARCH) to promote blended learning activities was completed. The major activities included refining index pages for SEARCH and its sub-portal SP3ACEMAN, special projects/programmes to promote Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) and Education for All (EFA) and Educational Partners with Links to International Institutions, compiling final congress reports and student research reports of SSYS 1 to SSYS 6 in digital formats, preparing articles for “Learning Science and Mathematics” (LSM) on-line journal and conferences, involving stakeholders to register the closed forum site and open forum, conducting a workshop to prepare e-learning resources which was partly funded by UNESCO Japan Fund-in-Trust, and conducting a seminar entitled, “Blended learning: Rebranding learning for the 21st century”. The SEARCH portal was officially launched on 27 June 2011.

Science Lesson Study Project aims to introduce the lesson study process to school science teachers and establish model schools that will showcase the lesson study process as a strategy for enhancing teacher professional development. Six primary and secondary schools in Penang are involved in this project. As a start off, a lesson study seminar-workshop for science teachers was conducted on 16 April 2011. This will be followed by working collaboratively with science teachers in the participating schools in planning,
implementing, evaluating, and refining class lessons from July 2011 onward. The draft of the lesson study monograph is expected to be completed by December 2011.

Southeast Asian Regional Assessment (SEARA) is an attempt to introduce a regional assessment system for all SEAMEO member countries which would be affordable and sustainable. Three approaches to SEARA will be considered: adapt and adopt TIMSS, hire an external organisation to develop the system like ICAS from University of New South Wales, and develop own system in collaboration with member countries. A meeting among key personnel from each member countries is expected to be convened early next fiscal year.

Southeast Asian Regional Standards (SEARS) is a regional project to improve the quality of science and mathematics in Southeast Asia. The aim is to formulate science and mathematics standards for the region. Science and mathematics standards of various developed and developing countries were examined. A first draft of a proposal on how this project is expected to be implemented has been completed. Two consultants (Science and Mathematics) will be identified to help RECSAM to develop this project. A concept paper on how to formulate the regional standards will be composed by the consultants. The concept paper is expected to be done by the end of 2011.

In the Climate Change Integrated Model Project, RECSAM and APN will collaborate in a one year (2011-2012) training workshop and research project on the use of Teachers’ Guidebook through integration structure to effectively infuse climate changes issues into the curriculum for Southeast Asian schools. This project will be partnered by 5 countries namely Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Thailand and Lao PDR. Each country has one pilot site composed of 3 - 4 secondary schools equipped with a set of weather instruments such as barometer, hygrometer, thermometer and rain gauge. The learning process will be both indoor (classroom) and outdoor (Problem/Project based learning-investigatory) that will address the emerging regional issues of climate change.

This Regular Courses Lesson Plan Compilation project aim to produce a series of lesson plan exemplars based on the themes of the regular courses that were conducted from 4th to 29th April 2011. Lesson plan exemplars for the regular course “Making Sense of Secondary Science Through Inquiry: Problem-Based Learning at Work” as well as “Learning by Doing: ICT tools for Secondary Science Classrooms” were developed by the participants with input from the facilitators and tested through teaching try-outs with school students and edited. The compilation of both of the regular course lesson plan exemplars are expected to be completed by September 2011.

A set of eleven science and six mathematics papers written as final papers for the research course PDA 104 submitted by participants of the Post-Graduate Diploma of Education programme on Teaching of Science and
Mathematics in English (TeSME) are being edited for compilation into two monographs; one on science education and the other on mathematics education. These monographs are in the final stages of review and edit and are expected to be published by the end of 2011.

RECSAM is collaborating with Deakin University to write the book “Learning Science Beyond the Classroom” which will be edited by Coral Campbell, Ian Robottom & Damien Blake and published by RECSAM. The book presents an alternative approach to science learning in the middle years (Years 5 - 10) for both training and qualified science education teachers and educationalists. The contract for the publication of this book is expected to be signed by July 2011.

The first draft of the first series of SSYS on-line publication, “Journey to Investigative Research: A Compilation of Student Research Projects Presented During the 5th SSYS Congress” from 6 - 9 March 2006, was completed in June 2011. This publication contains selected projects from the 21 projects that were presented by student delegates from the 10 SEAMEO member countries. The digital file of the book as well as the hard copy of the refined version will be published and is expected to be available by the beginning of next year.

The Second Joint RECSAM/ICASE Seminar on Innovations in “Science and Technology Education (STE) for the 21st Century” was held from 16 - 17 February 2011. The purpose of this seminar was to raise awareness of educators on the development of STE, to provide opportunities for intellectual discourse among educators about issues raised by the key presenters as well as to propose recommendations to address a number of issues discussed. The key presenters updated the participants on recent STE developments as discussed at length during the 3rd ICASE World Conference on STE held in Tartu, Estonia from 28 June to 2 July 2010. Discussions were held using the Open Space Concept and five priority areas with action plans were developed by the participants.

RECSAM publishes the Journal of Science and Mathematics Education in Southeast Asia which is published twice yearly and Learning Science and Mathematics which is published online once a year. Volume 33 Number 1 (June 2010) and Volume 33 Number 2 (December 2010) of the Journal of Science and Mathematics Education in Southeast Asia were published while the 2010 issue of the Learning Science and Mathematics online journal was made available online in December 2010.

1.3 Consultancy Services by Staff

- Mr. Teoh Boon Tat, Specialist from Training Programme Division was also invited to share with 25 teachers including the school principal, Mr. Loh Kea Yu, of S.M.K. St. Xavier’s Institution, Penang in a session entitled: “Classroom Innovations for Teaching Mathematics” for their staff development programme on 13 August 2010.
• Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division gave a talk on “An Introduction to Geogebra: A workshop for GeoGebra Users” for 33 pre-service teachers from Institut Pendidikan Guru (IPG) Kampus Pulau Pinang on 11 November 2010.

• Mr. Devadason R. Peter and Mr. C. Annamalai, Specialists from RECSAM gave a talk on “Using Slowmation in Teaching and Learning Science” for a group of teacher trainees from Institut Pendidikan Guru (IPG) Kampus Pulau Pinang at RECSAM on 29 September 2010. About 150 teacher trainees attended the talk.

• Mr. Teoh Boon Tat, Specialist from Training Programme Division was invited to conduct a Problem-Based Learning the 4 Core Areas (PBL4C) in Mathematics Education workshop at KL International Hotel organised by the Curriculum Development Division, Ministry of Education, Malaysia from 8 - 11 November 2010.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from Research & Development Division was involved as workshop facilitator in the “Mathematizing: Using Contexts to Develop Mathematical Ideas” workshop organised by Institut Pendidikan Guru, Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia at Citrus Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 30 November - 3 December 2010.

• Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division was involved as a speaker in a GeoGebra Seminar organised by Pusat Pengajian Sains Matematik, Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) on 13 December 2010.

• Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Malaysia conducted a workshop on “Kids Rule!” organised by Pusat Sains Negara, Kuala Lumpur from 21 - 22 December 2010.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division visited Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST), Thailand on 17 January 2011 where he had discussions with the Dr. Pompun Waitayangkoon, the President of IPST and Dr. Prechan Dechri, the Deputy Director IPST concerning the roles of International Assessments in improving promoting science and mathematics education in the SEAMEO region.

• Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was invited to conduct a workshop on “Creative and Low-Cost Science Material” from 25 - 26 January 2011 for 24 professional staff of Petrosains, Kuala Lumpur.

• Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) conducted a workshop entitled: Creative Toys for Learning Science through Low Cost Materials & Constructivism in Practice for Teaching and Learning Science at Pusat Peragaan IPTEK (Ilmu Pengetahuan dan Teknologi, Indonesia) from
23 - 24 March 2011. Fifty eight elementary, junior high school teachers and science centre staff participated in this workshop. Participants were taught how to design and conduct science activities using limited tools and materials.

• Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) facilitated a workshop on “Universal Design for Learning Science” for the Asian Gifted Student’s Fair 2011 participants on 15 April 2011 at RECSAM. This workshop was based on concept of “science popularisation through low-cost and locally available materials”. Thirty six teachers from Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand participated in this workshop.

• Dr. Koay Suan See, Specialist (Training Programme), Ms. Ng Khar Thoe, Specialist (Research & Development) and Mr. Baharulnizam Baharum, Programme Officer (Training Programme) were involved as panel judges at the Penang Science and Technology Education Carnival (Innovation Competition) organised by the Penang State Education Department from 3 - 5 May 2011. Ms. Ng Khar Thoe was also involved as speaker to talk on “Web-based resources in SEARCH for science and mathematics researchers”.

• Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division was invited to conduct a workshop on “Lesson Study in Mathematics” at SMK Tunku Puan Habsah on 21 May 2011. A total of six mathematics teachers, one senior teacher and one Institut Pendidikan Guru (IPG) Kampus Pulau Pinang lecturer attended this workshop.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division was involved as facilitator in Bengkel Pelaksanaan Inisiatif Makmal NKRA Pendidikan Kualiti Guru: Professional Learning Communities 2011 at DeBaron Resort, Langkawi, Kedah organised by Bahagian Pendidikan Guru, Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia from 18 - 20 May 2011.

1.4 Other Events

• Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division attended the “Mesyuarat Program Penggalakan Sains & Teknologi” organised by Institut Kajian Socio-Ekonomi & Alam Sekitar, Pulau Pinang on 23 July 2010.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from Research & Development Division attended the “Ketua Jabatan Sains dan Matematik MRSM “ meeting held at Hotel Continental, Kuala Lumpur on 29 September 2010.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division was involved in the data collection session pertaining to TIMSS (SEARA Project) session organised by RECSAM and Educational Planning & Research
Division (EPRD), Ministry of Education, Malaysia at Putrajaya on 26 January 2011.

- Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division was invited to attend “Mesyuarat Kerjasama Penyelidikan Mengenai Ketidakseimbangan Gender Di IPT dan Kemerlosotan Bilangan Pelajar Dalam Jurusan Sains di Chancellory” at Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Tg. Malim, Perak on 10 February 2011.

- Both Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division and Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division were involved in the Editorial Meeting for Mathematics Textbooks at Gakko Tosho and SEAMEO-Tsukuba Business Meeting at Meikei Kaikan, Tokyo, Japan on 15 February 2011.

- Mr. Devadason R. Peter, Deputy Director (Research & Development) was involved as a committee member in Mesyuarat Jawatankuasa Kurikulum Pusat Bil. 1/2011 organised by Bahagian Pembangunan Kurikulum, Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia at Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia, Putrajaya on 20 June 2011.

- Mr. Julito C. Aligaen, Specialist from Research & Development Division attended the 2nd Country Report Meeting on Education for Sustainable Development: Climate Change Education (CCE), Education for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Reorienting Teacher Education to Address Sustainability in the Five Cluster Countries organised by UNESCO, Cluster Office for Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Timor Leste Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific on 20 and 21 June 2011 at UNESCO Office, Jakarta.

- Mr. Devadason R. Peter, Deputy Director (Research & Development) travelled to Amsterdam to attend a meeting with IEA Executive Director for SEARA Project hosted by International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Achievement (IEA) from 23 to 24 June 2011.
KRA 2: REGIONAL VISIBILITY

21 Strengthening and Increasing Linkages

2.1.1 Apart from the mainstream linkages with the ministries of education of the member and associate member countries, collaboration with other institutions and organisations had enabled the Centre to stay in the mainstream of global educational developments. During the period in review, the Centre established and/or renewed formal agreements with various institutions in the form of:

- Sixteen pre-service teachers and two lecturers from the University of the Western Sydney Australia (UWS) made an overseas educational and cultural tour at six primary and secondary schools to Penang recently. It was a two week tour programme beginning from 28 June 2010 and ending on 9 July 2010 and was organised by RECSAM, UWS and the Penang State Education Department. The aim of the tour was to provide opportunities for the Australian pre-service teachers to gain a greater understanding of the Malaysian culture and education system and to enhance the formation of closer relationships between Australia and Malaysian participants. It also seeks to provide professional and educational benefits to Malaysian schools, teachers and students through the work, knowledge and educational preparation of the pre-service teachers. The six schools involved in the programme were SK Sungai Gelugor (Primary), SMKA (P) Al Mashoor (Secondary), SMK Bukit Gambir (Secondary), SMK Sungai Nibong (Secondary), SMK Datuk Hj Mohd Nor Ahmad (Secondary) and SMK (P) Methodist (Secondary). The tour programme proved to be successful where both the teachers and schools gained opportunities in establishing networking and learning experience.

- RECSAM organised a programme entitled: Promoting Science & Technology Education (Penggalakan Sains & Teknologi Pulau Pinang 2010) in partnership with the State Education Department on 15 and 16 November 2010 which was conducted by Ms. Foo Lay Kuan, Mr. Lee Shok Mee and Mr. Baharulnizam Baharum from Training Programme Division. The programme was aimed to instill awareness on science and technology as well as conservation on the environment for sustainable development. Two partner schools with a total number of 60 students in Penang participated in this programme namely: (i) SMK Sungai Nibong and (ii) SMK Bukit Gambir.
• RECSAM in collaboration with ASMEP (Association of Science and Mathematics Education Penang), jointly organised an educational trip for their respective staff and members together with their families to explore the world renown Matang Mangrove Reserve in Kuala Sepetang on 6 March 2011. Mr. Lee Shok Mee, a Science Education Specialist for RECSAM and a long time member of ASMEP, was tasked to organise and lead the trip. Among the 50 members in the contingent was none other than Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and also President of ASMEP. Within the short span of a day, the contingent was able to visit the mangrove forest and its museum, charcoal factory, the location of the historical first railway in Port Weld (old name of Kuala Sepetang), Kuala Gula Bird Sanctuary and salted duck eggs factory at Kuala Kurau. At each stop, the contingent had the privilege of getting first hand briefings from the people on the ground. It was like an open classroom showcasing the salient aspects on sustainable development, demonstrating how conservation and proper management of mangrove forest can lead to balanced growth in social-economic and environmental sustainability.

• The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) Signing Ceremony between RECSAM and Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, Thailand for academic collaboration was held at RECSAM on 23 May 2011. The agreement was signed by Asst. Prof. Dr. Surawat Thongbu, RMU Provost and Dean, Faculty of Education, Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University and Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director of RECSAM. Under the agreement, RECSAM and Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, Thailand will jointly cooperate in areas of mutual interest such as collaboration in the field of education especially in science and mathematics, initiatives and educational programmes, research and staff professional development projects and mechanism for academic collaboration between both parties for a period of five years.

• RECSAM and UPSI (Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris) re-formalised their collaboration in a MoU which was signed on 9 June 2011 at UPSI. With this MoU, RECSAM and UPSI will collaborate and take the necessary steps in the promotion of intellectual development and technical cooperation that encompasses short term exchange of academic staff and students, attachment for staff and academic members for internship, exchange of printed journals in science and mathematics education and cooperation in conducting or contributing articles for research, seminars and others. The
MoU was signed by the Centre Director, Dr. Azian Abdullah on behalf of RECSAM and Professor Dr. Noraini Idris, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) on behalf of UPSI and witnessed by Y.B. Dato’ Mohammad Zahir Abdul Khalid, Perak State Exco and Chairman for Education, Higher Educator, ICT, Human Resources, Science and Technology Committee. This followed by a knowledge sharing session by Dr. Patsy Wang-Iverson, RECSAM’s invited consultant who gave a talk on “What Can We Learn from TIMSS?”.

2.1.2 During the fiscal year, the Centre also conducted programmes and activities with the support of the following organisations and agencies below:

- Academy of Science, France
- Academy of Science Malaysia
- Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
- Association for Science Education, United Kingdom
- Colombo Plan Secretariat
- Deakin University, Australia
- GlaxoSmithKline Sdn. Bhd.
- Intel Malaysia
- Internexia Sdn. Bhd.
- International Council of Associations for Science Education (ICASE)
- International GeoGebra Institute
- International Science Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation under the Auspices of UNESCO (ISTIC)
- Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)
- Malaysian Technical Cooperation Programme (MTCP)
- Ministry of Education, Malaysia
- National Hydraulic Research Institute of Malaysia (NAHRIM)
- Petrosains Malaysia
- SEAMEO Ministries of Education
- SEAMEO Sister Centres
- SEAMEO Secretariat, Bangkok
• State Education Department, Penang
• Statworks, Malaysia
• UNESCO
• University of the Philippines National Institute for Science and Mathematics Education Development (UP NISMED), Manila
• Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM)
• Universiti Malaya (UM)
• Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), Malaysia
• University of Auckland, New Zealand
• University of New South Wales, Australia
• University of Tsukuba, Japan
• University of Western Sydney, Australia
• University of Rajabhat Maha Sarakham, Thailand

2.2 Marketing RECSAM’s Programmes, Products and Services

The efforts to increase access to RECSAM’s programmes, products and services to markets within and beyond the SEAMEO region were sustained. The marketing team continued to identify new market outlets for its programmes and International House, amidst a very competitive environment prevailing in the region.

Advertising Centre’s events and activities in the local media, distribution of promotional brochures and flyers to prospective clients, wider circulation of Centre’s publications such as the Journal of Science and Mathematics Education in Southeast Asia, RECSAM Newsletter, hosting of regional and international seminars and conferences such as the Joint RECSAM-ICASE Seminar 2011, display of promotional materials at international events outside RECSAM and official visits by officials and academicians had helped to publicise the Centre’s programmes widely.

RECSAM’s official webpage, Facebook and Twitter in the Internet supplemented the Centre’s other information materials. Contents were updated regularly and reflect current programmes and activities for users all over the world.

Besides that, RECSAM staff also went all out to support the National Day celebration on 31 August 2010 to increase its visibility to stakeholders by participating in a Parade held at Padang Kota, Penang. This time, our contingent comprised 41 staff representing Executives, Programme Officer, Technical Assistants and Administrative Assistants as well as General
Assistants. Mr. Mohd. Daud Khairiree was the head of contingent while Mr. Azwan Hanafi was the commander. Also present were Penang Governor, Tuan Yang Terutama Tun Dato' Seri Haji Abdul Rahman Bin Haji Abbas and Chief Minister of Penang, Y.A.B. Tuan Lim Guan Eng.

RECSAM also took part in the Penang State Museum and Art Gallery’s 46th anniversary celebration. The celebration was held at its premises at Jalan Macalister, Penang from 14 - 17 April 2011. The anniversary celebration was officiated by the State’s Governor, Yang Di-Pertua Negeri Tun Abdul Rahman Abbas. RECSAM participated in this event through the operation of a booth exhibiting the Centre’s remarkable achievements since its inception in 1967, and on-going developments as well as RECSAM International House and its event facilities.

The regular practice of RECSAM’s managerial and academic staff’s meetings with leading educationists and experts at regional and international events had helped the Centre expand contacts and strengthen its international links. The quality of the Centre’s programmes and support facilities had also impressed visitors to the Centre.

2.3 Publications

Several publications were produced at RECSAM to complement the workshops and conferences as well as to continue running the biannual Journal. Brochures and flyers with promotional information and newsletters were distributed widely from time to time. The list of publications as follows:

- Journal of Science and Mathematics Education in Southeast Asia
- Online Journal “Learning Science and Mathematics”
- Search for SEAMEO Young Scientists (SSYS): 8th Regional Congress Information Booklet
- Annual Report 2009/2010
- 41st Governing Board Meeting Proceedings
- 3rd International Conference on Science and Mathematics Education (CoSMEd) Proceedings
- Periodical Newsletters
- Executive Summaries of Programmes and Activities in F.Y. 2010/2011 for CDM and HOM
- Integrating Climate Change Issues in Southeast Asian Schools – A Teachers’ Guidebook
- Brochures and programme books for courses/ workshops/ seminars and conferences
- International House promotional brochures
- RECSAM publications promotional brochures
24 Visitors to RECSAM

RECSAM also organised and served as host to many groups of visitors. During this fiscal year, various personages from different local and international agencies, institutions, government and non-government organisations, visited RECSAM. They were briefed on the Centre’s programmes and activities, given a tour of RECSAM facilities, or oriented to a particular project of RECSAM. Through these visits, the Centre established and developed working relationships with other organisations and institutions for programmes and activities that are of mutual interest.

- Tn. Hj. Ibrahim bin Mohamad, Mr. Ahmad Sabirin Abd Ghani and Ms. Fatimah bt Othman, Penang State Education Department, 8 July 2010
- Mr. Matsumura Motohiro, Representative from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malaysia, 6 August 2010
- Mr. Muhamad Ghopran bin Yeop Hamzah, Director-Programme, The Colombo Plan, Sri Lanka, 3 September 2010
- Assoc. Prof. Dr Somsong Suwapanich, Chairperson, Doctoral Degree, Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, Thailand, 19 October 2010
- Mr. Nagae Tsutomu, Chief Representative and Mr. Miura Yasuo, Volunteer Coordinator, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), 4 November 2010
- Dr. Qismullah Yusuf, Chairman of Human Resources Development Commission of Aceh, 19 November 2010
- Mr. Susetyo W., Mr Padsari, Mr Aristono, Staf of Directorate of SMP Ditjen Mandikdasmen, Indonesia, and Mr Lukito, Staff of District of Province Education, Indonesia, 25 November 2010
- H.E. Mr. Chilman Arisman, Consul General of Indonesia in Penang, 26 November 2010
- Dato’ Hjh Noor Rezan Bt. Bapoo Hashim, Deputy Director-General, Ministry of Education Malaysia, 22 December 2010
- Tn. Hj. Ibrahim bin Mohamad, Director, Penang State Education Department, 22 December 2010
- Pn. Hjh. Jamaah bt Hj Taman, Mr. Harris Ganae b Nainar, Ms. Rosemawani Che Hussin, SM Sains Kepala Batas, 12 January 2011
- Dr. Tinsiri Siribodhi, Deputy Director (Administration and Communication), SEAMEO Secretariat, 23 January 2011
• Prof. Dr. Noraini binti Idris, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research & Commercialization/Innovation), Prof. Dr. Rosly Jaafar, Prof. Madya Dr. Ong Eng Tek, Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris (UPSI), 9 February 2011

• Dato’ Patricia Chia Yoon Moi, Secretary-General, The Colombo Plan Secretariat, 25 February 2011

• Dr. Hisham Dzakaria, Ms. Shahrul Niza Said, Dr. Harihan M.Krishnasamy, Dr. Abdul Halim Mohamed, Universiti Utara Malaysia, 8 March 2011

• Mr. Masuda Ryoichiro, Mr. Motohiro Matsumura, Ms. Shiriyna Hassan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Malaysia, 10 March 2011

• Dr. Ahmad Ibrahim from Malaysia Industry-Government Group for High Technology (MIGHT), Dato Dr. Syarifah Maimunah Syed Zin and Dato Dr. Samsudin Tugiman from The International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre (ISTIC), and Mr. Nashiruddin Mohd Tahir and Mr. Mohd Nurul Azammi bin Mohd Nudri from Office of the Science Advisor to the Prime Minister, 24 March 2011

• Ms. Intanku Salwa Shamsuddin, Head of Mathematics & Computer Science, Politeknik Merlimau Melaka, 8 April 2011

• H.E. Mr. Voradet Viravakin, Consul-General of Thailand in Penang, 29 April 2011

• Ms. Habibah Buang, Ms. Mahani bt Ahmad, Ms. Mariani bt Abdullah and Mr. Shuhairi b Abdul Razak, Institut Pendidikan Guru (IPG) Kampus Perlis, 4 May 2011

• H.E. Mr. Chilman Arisman, Consul-General of Republic Indonesia in Penang, Ms. Octavin Dewi Zulaicha, Vice Consul/Economic, Consulate General of Indonesia and Dr. Qismullah Yusuf, Chairman of Human Resources Development Commission of Aceh, 6 May 2011

• Ms. Eidelmine F.Genosa, HR Specialist and Ms. Maria Magdatena J. Ermino, HR Coordinator, SEAMEO SEARCA, 9 May 2011

• Dr. Surawat Thongbu, Dr. Paisarn Worakham and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Somsong Suwapamich, Rajabhat Maha Sarakham University, 23 May 2011

• Mr. Mohd. Al-Aiman Syazwi Abdullah Bupor, Mr. Md. Kasim Haji Abd. Rahman and Mr. Asmad Hj. Lamat, SEAMEO VOCTECH, 14 June 2011

25 Conferences, Seminars, Workshops and Professional Visits Attended by Staff

Professional development of our staff has been central and vital in the growth of RECSAM's services to educators of this region and beyond. In this fiscal year, to date, about 32 human resource development programmes were provided to the academic and management staff members:

- Mr. Teoh Boon Tat, Specialist from Training Programme Division attended the 10th Asia-Pacific Training Workshop (APTW) on EIU (Education for International Understanding) with the theme of “Making Waves for a Culture of Peace” which was held in Republic of Korea from 24 June to 3 July 2010.

- Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director, Ms. Foo Lay Kuan, Head of Training Programme Division and Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist at Training Programme Division travelled to Estonia to attend the 3rd ICASE World Conference on Science and Technology Education organised by International Council of Associations for Science Education (ICASE) at University of Tartu, Estonia from 28 June to 2 July 2010.

- Mr. Devadason Robert Peter, Head of Division from Research & Development Division attended the 2nd Workshop on SEAMEO Strategic Planning organised by the SEAMEO Secretariat from 25 - 26 August 2010 in Bangkok, Thailand.

- Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division attended the 2nd Science and Mathematics Education Workshop for Stakeholders: Meeting the Needs of Rural School and Innovative and Creative Teaching in Science & Mathematics” at Tang Dynasty Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah from 5 to 8 July 2010.

- Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist at Training Programme Division attended the Regional Seminar on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in Action in Asia-Pacific Region under the Mobile Training Team (MTT) Project organised by UNESCO Bangkok/ Islamabad/ Hanoi/ Jakarta and funded by Japanese Fund in Trust (JFIT) from 12 - 14 July 2010 in Bangkok and presented an ESD-Net report entitled: "Training Young Crusaders for Environmental Protection: In-stilling Ecological Literacy and Awareness of Sustainability”.

- Ms. Ng Khar Thoe, Specialist from R&D Division participated in a colloquium on “Innovation and Excellence in Research” organised by Open University Malaysia, Kuala Lumpur on 7 and 8 August 2010.

- Mr. Teoh Boon Tat, Specialist from Training Programme Division presented a paper entitled: “Problem-Based Learning the 4 Core Areas in search of excellence in mathematics education” at the 5th East Asia Regional Conference on Mathematics Education (EARCOME 5) held
in Tokyo from 18 - 22 August 2010. The paper was co-authored by Dr. Warabhorn Preechaporn and Dr. Leong Chee Kin. This paper is the result of an on-going effort to integrate values as part of the ‘Education for International Understanding’ (EIU) theme in inculcating a culture of peace in Mathematics education.

- Mr. Dominador D. Mangao and Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan, Specialists from Training Programme Division attended the 2010 AESTEP (Association of Elementary Science Teachers & Educators Philippines) National Convention on “Addressing Global Warming in Basic Education” organised by Association of Elementary Science Teachers and Educators of the Philippines, Inc. in cooperation with the Department of Education Division of Aklan and the Regional Science Teaching Center, West Visayas State University, Iloilo City from 8 - 10 October 2010 at Sampaguita Garden Resort & Spa, Kalibo, Aklan. Both were involved as plenary speakers to talk on “Addressing Global Warming in the School Curriculum through Science, Technology, Environment & Society (STES) Education: The RECSAM Experience” and “Elementary Science Teaching: The Integration of Climate Change Concepts and Issues” respectively.

- Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from Research & Development Division travelled to Bahrain to attend the Education Project Conference organised by Bahrain Economic Board at Isa Cultural Centre in Juffair, Bahrain’s capital Manama from 8 to 10 October 2010.

- Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency) attended the 6th International Workshop on “Science Centre in Promoting Knowledge and Innovative Society for Sustained and Responsible Growth in Developing Countries” organised by National Science Centre & Petrosains, Kuala Lumpur from 11 - 15 October 2010.

- Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan, Specialist from Training Programme Division attended a Lecture-Forum organised by Centre for Research and Innovation in Science and Mathematics Education of West Visayas State University at Center for Teaching Excellence, West Visayas State University, Philippines on 11 October 2010 and gave a talk on “Digital Native: My Student, My Friend, My Responsibility”.

- Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division went to Halong, Vietnam to attend the ASEAN Pattern Lab: Education for Sustainable Development workshop organised by UNESCO from 19 - 21 October 2010.

- Mr. Julito C. Aligaen, Specialist from Research & Development Division attended the Asia-Pacific Climate Change Adaptation Forum on Mainstreaming Adaptation into Development Planning organised by Asia Pacific Adaptation Network (APAN) - Regional Climate Change
Adaptation Platform for Asia at United Nations Conference Center (UNCC), Bangkok, Thailand on 21 and 22 October 2010.

• Ms. Ng Khar Thoe, Specialist from Research & Development Division travelled to Budapest, Hungary to attend the 6th EDEN Research Workshop on “User Generated Content Assessment in Learning: Enhancing Transparency and Quality of Peer Production; Emerging Educational Technologies and Digital Assessment Methods” Conference organised by European Distance and E-Learning Network (EDEN) in collaboration with International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE) and European Foundation for Quality in E-Learning (EfQuel) at Budapest University of Technology and Economics, Budapest, Hungary from 25 - 27 October 2010.

• Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from Research & Development Division went to Chiang Mai to attend the APEC-Chiang Mai International Conference Innovations of Mathematics Teaching and Learning through Lesson Study organised by Faculty of Education, Khon Kaen University in Chiang Mai, Thailand from 1 - 6 November 2010.

• Dr. Hazura Ab. Bakar and Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialists from RECSAM participated in the UNESCO-APCEIU Capacity Building Workshop on “Global Citizenship Education for a Culture of Peace and Sustainable Future” hosted by Universiti Sains Malaysia (USM) and jointly-organised by UNESCO Bangkok and Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) at Park Royal Hotel, Penang from 22 to 25 November 2010. Mr. Lee was also involved as a resource person at the Sub-regional Capacity-building Workshop.

• Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration) attended a Conference on “Stretching the Organizational Possibilities of SEAMEO Regional Centres” organised by SEAMEO INNOTECH from 1 - 3 December 2010 at SEAMEO INNOTECH, Quezon City, Philippines.

• Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division travelled to Kenya to attend the 10th SMASE-WECSA (Strengthening of Mathematics and Science Education in Western, Eastern, Central and Southern Africa) Regional Conference on “A reflection on a Decade of Promoting Mathematics and Science Education in Africa” organised by the Ministry of Education, Kenya and SMASE-WECSA Association from 6 - 10 December 2010. This programme was funded by JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency).

• Dr. Hazura Ab. Bakar and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao, Specialists from Research & Development Division participated in a two-day workshop on “Utilizing Multiple Regression, MONOVA and SEM to Design Quantitative Research Method in Social Science Educational and
Psychological Field” organised by School of Educational Studies, Universiti Sains Malaysia, Penang on 15 and 16 December 2010.

- Ms. Ng Khar Thoe, Specialist from Research & Development Division participated in the “Structural Equation Modeling (SEM): Theory and Practice” workshop conducted by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Karuthan Chinna from University Technology MARA, Shah Alam. The training workshop was organised by SPSS Users’ Association of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor at SPSS Training Centre, Kuala Lumpur from 15 -17 December 2010.

- Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, RECSAM Senior Specialist from R&D Division was invited as keynote speaker at the 1st EIS (English for Integrated Studies) Conference organised by The EIS Network Association in Rayong, Thailand from 13 - 16 January 2011.

- Mr. Marmon A. Pagunsan, Specialist from Training Programme Division and Mr. Julito C. Aligaen, Specialist from R&D Division attended the “Asia Pacific Youth Action on Climate Change Exploration through Cultural Expression Forum” organised by Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts (SEAMEO SPAFA) in Bangkok, Thailand from 24 - 27 January 2011.

- Dr. Cheah Ui Hock, Senior Specialist from R&D Division and Dr. Leong Chee Kin, Specialist from Training Programme Division went to Japan to attend the 5th APEC-Tsukuba International Conference on “Innovation of Classroom Teaching and Learning Through Lesson Study-Focusing on Mathematics Textbooks, e-Textbooks and Educational Tools organised by University of Tsukuba & Ministry of Education Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan at Tokyo University and Tsukuba University from 17 - 20 February 2011. Dr. Leong was also involved as a speaker to talk on: “Current Status and Efforts for Using ICT in the case of SEAMEO Centres”.

- Dr. Hazura Ab Bakar, Dr. Sheila Gamut Oyao and Ms Ng Khar Thoe, Specialists from R&D Division attended the Green Solutions Tradeshow and Conference which was organised by Intrenasionale and supported by the Penang State Government on 25 March 2011.

- Ms. Ng Khar Thoe and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao, Specialists from R&D Division participated in the World Water Day Celebration organised by Water Watch Penang (WWP) at Taman Metropolitan Relau, Penang on 3 April 2011.

- Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director, Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramlil, Deputy Director (Administration) and Pn. Rashihah Othman, Accountant attended the Final SEAMEO Strategic Planning Workshop organised by SEAMEO Secretariat at S31 Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok from 27 - 29 April 2011.
• Ms. Foo Lay Kuan Deputy Director (Training Programme) attended the 2nd International Seminar on La main à la pâte at Sevres, France from 9 - 15 May 2011. She presented a poster entitled “Advancing Professional Development of Science and Mathematics Teachers in Southeast Asia and Beyond”. The event was organised by La main à la pâte and Académie des Sciences with the support of the Ministry of Education France, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the International Centre for Pedagogical Studies.

• Mr. Lee Shok Mee and Dr. Koay Suan See, Specialists from Training Programme Division attended a two-day symposium on “The Role of the Penang Botanic Gardens: Meeting the Challenges of the 21st Century” jointly organised by School of Biological Sciences in Universiti Sains Malaysia, Socio-Economic & Environmental Research Institute (SERI) and the Mohamed Haniff Foundation on 24 & 25 May 2011.

• Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division and Dr. Sheila G. Oyao, Specialist from R&D Division went to Singapore to attend the Singapore Lesson Study Symposium 2011 organised by National Institute of Education (NIE) and Academy of Principals, Singapore (APS) at Suntec Singapore International Convention & Exhibition Centre from 2 - 3 June 2011.

• Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division attended the 22nd Pacific Science Congress organised by Pacific Science Association (PSA), Akademi Sains Malaysia, Ministry of Science, Technology and Innovation (MOSTI), International Science, Technology and Innovation Centre for South-South Cooperation (ISTIC) and International Council for Science (ICSU) at Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre from 14 - 17 June 2011.

• Mr. Lee Shok Mee, Specialist from Training Programme Division participated in the Geosciences Information for Teachers’ (GIFT) workshop organised by School of Biological Sciences, Universiti Sains Malaysia and Geosciences Union on 23 & 24 June 2011.

• Mr. Devadason R. Peter, Deputy Director (Research & Development) travelled to Lisbon, Portugal to present a paper at the World Conference on Educational Multimedia, Hypermedia and Telecommunications (ED-MEDIA 2011) organised by Association for the Advancement of Computing in Education (AACE) from 27 June to 1 July 2011.
KRA 3: SOLID RESOURCE BASE

3.1 Staffing

Staffing strength stood at 89 as of 30 June 2011. There were four staff who either resigned or retired during this fiscal year. The departure of staff included one Executive, one Research Assistant, one Administrative Assistant, and one Personal Assistant to Centre Director.

In its bid to streamline work procedures and enhance the specialisation as well as replace the vacated posts, RECSAM employed five Specialists, one Programme Officer, one Research Officer, one Assistant Executive and one Personal Assistant to Centre Director and one General Assistant (driver).

Ms. Junizah Abd Rashid, Research Assistant from Research & Development Division resigned from RECSAM on 23 July 2010. Ms. Irene Lee Chow Kheng, Administrative Assistant (Finance), Mr. Mohd Daud Khairiree, Marketing Executive and Ms. Lim Ai Chin, Personal Assistant to Centre Director retired in this fiscal year.

Dr. Hazura bint Ab Bakar and Dr. Sheila Gamut Oyao, Specialists who joined on 1 July 2010 and 4 October 2010 respectively are now serving at R&D Division. Dr. Fong Ho Kheong, an Australian national began serving since 4 January 2011 as a Specialist in Training Programme Division. Dr. Koay Suan See took the post as a Training Programme Specialist on 1 March 2011. Dr. Warabhorn Preechaporn from Nakhon Si Thammarat, Thailand returned to duty as a Specialist in Training Programme Division on 16 March 2011.

Mr. Maheswaran a/l Tayang, the new General Assistant (driver) joined RECSAM on 1 July 2010. Mr. Chin Chern Far joined RECSAM as Research Officer on 14 July 2010 while Ms. Bhavani Ramasamy joined the ranks on 20 August 2010 as a Programme Officer at R&D Division. Mr. Muhammad Hanif b. Amir Hamzah commenced work as the new Publication & Multimedia Assistant Executive on 18 April 2011. Ms. Faridah Bt. Abdul Hamid, began work as Personal Assistant to Centre Director on 18 May 2011.
Table 2: Staff Strength for Fiscal Year 2010/2011

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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Non-Malaysian</th>
<th>Malaysian</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Director</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Deputy Directors</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senior Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Specialists</td>
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<tr>
<td>Executives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assistant Executives</td>
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<td>General Assistants</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sub-Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>7</strong></td>
<td><strong>82</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>89</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3.2 Management Efficiency

In addition to attending the Governing Board Meeting (GBM), Centre Directors’ Meeting (CDM), SEAMEO Council Conference and High Officials’ Meeting (HOM), in-house meetings were also conducted by the Centre to provide more opportunities for the Centre Director, academic and management staff towards managerial competencies and to discuss the progress of on-going projects. Experiences and advanced knowledge gained from the meetings were shared through existing communication media within the Centre.

3.2.1 In-House Meetings

- At RECSAM, in-house meetings were regularly held to ensure all activities ran smoothly and efficiently. The primary meetings, all chaired by the Centre Director, were those that included the academic staff in their pursuit of executing all programmes for our clients, while the management meetings comprised all Deputy Directors and Executives. Other meetings, of equal importance, were held within a period of time to facilitate the organising of conferences/congress i.e.
the Personnel Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting, CoSMEd and SSYS organising committee meeting.

- The management and academic team members from RECSAM took the beaches of Batu Feringgi from 8 - 11 December 2010 to attend the annual RECSAM Management Retreat which was held at Bayview Beach Resort with the objective of bridging thoughts within the Centre to consciously and collectively recommend the way forward for the Centre’s upcoming annual plan. The Meeting was chaired by the Centre Director. All Deputy Directors (Administration, Training Programme and Research & Development) presented their upcoming 2011 plans which had been determined based in the Centre’s Strategic Goals and Key Results Areas (KRAs). The Meeting also covered topics like Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) refined by the SEAMEO Secretariat as well as the Centre’s work processes.

3.2.2 SEAMEO Meetings

Centre Directors’ Meeting F.Y. 2009/2010

- The 2010 SEAMEO Centre Directors’ Meeting (CDM) was convened from 13 - 15 July 2010 at S31 Sukhumvit Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand. A total of 74 participants, ranging from Centre Directors, key officials from the sister centres as well as representatives from the Associate Member Countries attended this Meeting and representing RECSAM were Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director accompanied by Mr. Devadason Robert Peter, Deputy Director (Research & Development). Dr. Azian presented a progress report on “Integrating Climate Change Issues in Southeast Asian Schools: Teachers’ Guide Book” while Mr. Devadason updated the Meeting on RECSAM’s main activities for the past fiscal year.

The 41st Governing Board Meeting (GBM)

- The 41st Governing Board Meeting was convened at Savoy Homann Bidakara Hotel, Bandung, Indonesia from 11 - 13 October 2010. The Centre tabled a total of nine reports, seven working papers and presented one information paper for the deliberation of the Board Members, who assessed the performance of the Centre during fiscal year 2009/2010, and also identified policies, resolutions and recommendations that would ensure that the Centre continues to enhance regional cooperation in Science and Mathematics education. During the meeting, a visit to SEAMEO QITEP (SEAMEO Regional Centre for Quality Improvement of Teacher and
Education Personnel in Science) was organised. Dr. Sediono Abdullah, Acting Director of SEAMEO QITEP in Science and his management team welcomed all delegates. The delegates also toured the Centre after a brief opening programme.

The 33rd High Officials’ Meeting

- Thailand Education Minister, H. E. Mr. Chinnaworn Boonyakiat presided over the Opening Ceremony of the 33rd SEAMEO High Officials’ Meeting held at Royal Orchid Sheraton Hotel, Bangkok from 22 - 24 November 2010. The Meeting was attended by Vice-Ministers, Permanent Secretaries, and Senior Officials of Ministries of Education of SEAMEO member countries, Directors of SEAMEO units and representatives from Associate Member Countries and partner organisations. Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director, Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration) and Mr. Devadason R. Peter, Deputy Director (Research & Development) attended the Meeting. Dr. Azian presented the progress report on “Integrating Climate Change Issues in Southeast Asian Schools - A Teachers’ Guidebook” and distributed the hard copies of the book at the meeting.

The 45th SEAMEO Council Conference

- The Ministry of Education, Brunei Darussalam, with support of the SEAMEO Secretariat, convened the 46th SEAMEO Council Conference at the Empire Hotel and Country Club, Jerudong, Brunei Darussalam from 26 to 29 January 2011 with more than 150 participants from 18 countries comprising education ministers, high-level government education officials, and representatives from international organisations from the SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Members, Affiliate Members, and partners. Representing RECSAM were Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director and Tn. Haji Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration).

The SEAMEO Service Award was conferred to 15 outstanding officers from the SEAMEO Regional Centres/Network and the Secretariat. The SEAMEO Service Award aimed at providing annual recognition and appreciation to staff members of the SEAMEO Units who demonstrated exceptionally high level of achievement in work performance, innovation and creativity, professionalism and commitment that contributed to the success of the organisation’s mission and goals. Recognised for his achievement and contribution to RECSAM, Mr. Azmi bin Sulaiman, General Assistant
3.3 Staff Welfare

3.3.1 Financial Assistance

Financial assistance had been a mainstay in RECSAM’s role of being a caring organisation towards the well-being of its staff members. Staff members enjoyed the continuous support in terms of medical insurance, welfare loan, housing loan interest subsidy, vehicle loan interest subsidy, computer loan and gratuity payments upon retirement. In this fiscal year, RECSAM provided welfare assistance by way of loans to 32 staff and one staff was given the computer loan.

3.3.2 Family Dinner

- 23 October 2010 was certainly an “amazing” night when all RECSAM staff and their family members were treated to a family dinner themed “A Dazzling Night in Black & White”. It was a night of fun, rewards and a lot of prizes were won through the lucky draw segment. RECSAM staff and their family members gathered to enjoy the lavish buffet and seafood barbecue dinner held at Vistana Hotel, Penang. Many of the staff showed their support towards the occasion by wearing black and white costumes. All staff and their family members were entertained by our very own, made in Malaysia, best in Penang, RECSAM’s Michael Jackson, Mr. Rajendran Velloo, who won the talent contest. The night continued with other performances, games such as longest chain, bottoms up and lucky draws. When it was time for the favourite part – THE LUCKY DRAW – everyone was eager to win the lucrative prizes ranging from the stylish Panasonic Lumix digital camera and the snappy Samsung DVD player to the trendy Panasonic microwave oven and the ultimate Grand Prize holiday package to Pulau Pangkor worth RM518 with RM300 cash which was won by the lucky Ms. Foo Lay Kuan from Training Programme Division. It was indeed a memorable event for all.

3.3.3 Festive Celebrations at RECSAM

At RECSAM, we take great care to promote a sense of belonging and harmony among our staff through social gatherings and festive celebrations.
• To further enhance the spirit of Hari Raya, RECSAM held its festive gathering with all staff and tenants on 5 October 2010. All RECSAM staff attended the gathering which commenced from 4.00pm - 6.00pm with lively “Raya” songs. It also created an opportunity for the foreign staff to understand our Malaysian culture of “Unity in Diversity” of races and religions in Malaysia a little better. Overall, it fulfilled the objective to promote a healthy and harmonious working relationship and culture at RECSAM. Everyone had a delightful feast and it was a great festive gathering to be remembered.

• The unique Deepavali celebration was celebrated on 11 November 2010 with sparkling joy. The celebration saw RECSAM staff from various races having a good time and savouring a delicious spread of hi-tea and festive delicacies. RECSAM staff were all smiles and laughter as they sampled the Deepavali spread as well as Indian delicacies such as thosai, putu mayong, chapatti and vadai. Apart from sharing the festival joy within staff fraternity, the presence of staff from various races and religions reflects our Malaysian spirit of Muhibbah (solidarity).

• A Christmas hi-tea party was thrown for the staff of RECSAM on 14 January 2011. After a year of hard and diligent work, all staff gathered together to enjoy a sumptuous and relaxing Christmas celebration. The buffet included festive favourites such as spaghetti, chicken chop, shepherd pie and chocolate dip fruit. It was simple yet a great day for all staff.

• During the monthly assembly on 4 March 2011, RECSAM took the opportunity to throw a Chinese New Year celebration for its staff. All Chinese colleagues were dressed in their best costumes and dished out oranges for wealth and good fortune. There were specially ordered cookies and the favourite was certainly the symbolic and mouth-watering “love letters” or “kuih kapit”. Everyone had a delightful feast and it was a great festive gathering to be remembered!

3.4 Staff Development

The Centre is committed to the development of our human resources through emphasis on training programmes to upgrade their knowledge and skills. During this fiscal year, all staff at RECSAM were provided opportunities in developing their knowledge and skills. This included both managerial and support staff.

• Pn. Nur Ezdiani Bt Yusoff, Assistant Librarian attended the “Cataloguing Workshop for Information Professionals” held at Juara Hall, Carlton Holiday Hotel & Suites, Shah Alam, from 26 to 29 July
2010. This workshop was organised by Wisdom Synergy and conducted by Ms. Salmah Hj, Salleh from MARA University of Technology and Pn. Balqis Suja from International Islamic University Malaysia.

- The first batch of the First Aid and CPR training course (certificate renewal) was conducted for 30 RECSAM staff on 21 October 2010. The trainer was Mr. Karunamoorti s/o Ganthi from the Malaysian Red Crescent Society (MRCS) is a Senior Instructor under the Penang Branch Training Committee. Staff were exposed to different types of emergencies such as trauma emergencies and cardiac & respiratory emergencies and were taught how to perform First Aid through a mock accident scenario.

- Tn. Hj. Ahmad Ramli, Deputy Director (Administration) attended a 3-day training course on “Thinking Out of the Box” organised by Talent Creation Management Services Sdn. Bhd. at Palm Garden Hotel, IOI Resort, Putrajaya from 1 - 3 March 2011.

- Pn. Rashihah Othman, Accountant attended a 2-day workshop on “Payroll Administration & Calculation” organised by Bridge Knowle Events (M) Sdn. Bhd. at Evergreen Laurel Hotel, Penang on 21 and 22 March 2011.

- Dr. Azian T.S. Abdullah, Centre Director attended a 2-day training course on “Innovative Leadership - Empowering Leaders with Innovation” organised by Emerge Knowledge Connection Sdn. Bhd. at Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur from 23 - 24 March 2011.

- Two staff from International House, Pn. Pakiavathy P. Subramaniam and Pn. Mahabuyah Yaacob, General Assistants were received by SEAMEO INNOTECH, Philippines for the staff exchange programme for a period of one-week from 20 - 27 March 2011.

- Pn. Rosnita Abd Wab, Assistant Accountant attended a briefing on “e-Filing and Taxation” organised by Inland Revenue Department of Malaysia, Penang Branch at Bangunan Dewan Perniagaan Melayu on 31 March 2011.

- Three staff from International House, Pn. Rostati Idris, Pn. Che Amah Osman and En. Mazelan Mohamed Amin, General Assistants went for a staff exchange programme at SEAMEO VOCTECH, Brunei Darussalam for a period of one week from 10 - 17 April 2011.

- Two groups of RECSAM staff attended the first aid training courses on “Introduction to First Aid and CPR” to renew their certificates. The training courses were conducted by Mr. Karunamoorti s/o Ganthi on 31 March 2011 for 27 staff and Mr. Muthukumaran Paramathmah on 19 May 2011 for 28 staff.
Fifteen staff from RECSAM participated in a professional visit to the Regional Meteorological Forecast Office and DCA Airport Control Tower at Bayan Lepas International Airport, Penang on 2 June 2011 which was organised by Penang Regional Centre: Malaysian National Computer Confederation (PERC-MNCC).

Ms. Bhavani Ramasamy, Programme Officer (Research & Development) and Mr. Baharulnizam Baharum, Programme Officer (Training Programme) attended a course entitled: “Making a Difference (MAD) – Develop Your Potential at Workplace” organised by Emerge Knowledge Connection Sdn. Bhd. at Legend Hotel, Kuala Lumpur on 24 & 25 May 2011.


A workshop on “Universal Design for Learning Science” by Mr. Hideo Nakano, Senior Volunteer from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) was held at RECSAM for staff and their children on 25 June 2011 at RECSAM. A total of 28 staff, their spouses and children participated in this workshop.

3.5 Infrastructure Development

3.5.1 Infrastructure and Support Facilities

The infrastructure and support facilities were always in constant need of change or improvements. Towards the end of this fiscal year 2010/2011, a number of improvements were made. Summary of the projects are as follows:

- Upgrading of gymnasium equipment and repainting of internal wall
- Purchasing of audio conference equipment for meeting purposes
- Renovation and repair works at:
  - Publication and printery room
  - International House guest rooms
  - Storage area at block C of International House
  - Drivers room and waiting lounge
  - Sauna room
- Upgrading of CCTV system at the International House
Old roller blinds were replaced with new ones at Philippines Room
Purchasing of new sofas for RECSAM’s foyer
Telephone system cabling and earthling work at the International House
Upgrading and repair work at RECSAM’s swimming pool ie. changing room, compound lightings, flooring and mini café

3.5.2 ICT Upgrading
RECSAM needs to keep up with the pace to sustain its active presence in the education arena and remain competitive. In this fiscal year, purchases were made to support the previous system that included Spam Titan, a spam filtering software to protect the Centre’s email server/user. The Centre also procured a Fortigate 200B Firewall to provide a more reliable and efficient connection, which included storage for cache memory to protect the Centre’s network and also to speed up user’s internet browsing.

3.6 Financial Viability

Financial operations had, as in the past fiscal year, been effectively controlled. The management gave sufficient emphasis towards income generating activities and controlling expenditure by maximising the use of resources, professional as well as facilities, and by instilling cost-saving awareness among the staff.

Despite these efforts, the estimated total revenue for the fiscal year 2010/2011 decreased by 8.0% from RM2,061,654.30 in the previous fiscal year to a current standing of RM1,896,722.00.

The decreased revenue was due to lesser number of fee-paying participants in customised courses, training workshops and seminars during this time period and also due to a decrease in budget allocation from sponsors/third-party organisations such as Ministry of Education Malaysia, Colombo Plan Secretariat and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) to conduct Third Country Training Programme (TCTP) courses.

The Centre’s Reserve Fund as of 30 June 2011 stood at RM11,905,990.00 as compared to RM16,114,120.69 in the previous fiscal year. This is due to the withdrawal of RM4 million to set up the Endowment Fund for Special Funds that was approved during the Governing Board Meeting in 2010.

Expenditure from the operating fund increased by 3.99%. This was primarily due to the increase in operating expenses such as utilities, communication and supplies.

There was a significant decrease in expenditure from the special funds by 20.21% since no conferences/congress was held in this time period.
Acknowledgements

SEAMEO RECSAM wishes to place on record its sincere appreciation to the Chairman and members of the Governing Board for their constant support and professional guidance. RECSAM is also greatly indebted to the Government of Malaysia for its benevolence and funding support that ensure its continued growth in the region. RECSAM also wishes to thank the following for their continued patronage of its programmes and activities:

- The SEAMEO Council
- The SEAMEO Secretariat
- The Ministers of Education of the Member Countries
- The Associate Member Countries
- The Donor Governments and Agencies
- The SEAMEO Centres and Network
- The Centre’s Generous Benefactors
- The Centre’s Linkage Partners