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# ANNUAL REPORT

## KRA 1: Regional Leadership

### 1. Research and Development

During FY 2016/17 the centre organized a research workshop on Effectives Ways of Teaching History in Secondary School of Southeast Asia with the aims of sharing and exchanging ideas, research, and resources, best practice in teaching, and promoting teaching and



learning history in secondary schools of Southeast Asia on 15-16 December 2016. 24 participants: curriculum specialists and secondary school teachers from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Myanmar. Among them eight participants are from Teacher's Trainers from Southeast Asia countries, and 16

participants from Teacher Education Department and Curriculum Planning Department under the Ministry of Education, Myanmar. The workshop met the outcomes of its purpose and got overarching purpose: to help develop a just and humane society, to see the beauty of history curriculum and to embrace its trends and potentials in order to provide students the best quality of life.

### 2. Capacity Building

#### 2.1 International/ Regional Development Programme

Annually CHAT has carried out the Training Programme: Myanmar History since 2002 with lectures followed by a fieldtrip to Bagan, Mandalay and Bago. For FY 2016/17, the programme was conducted from 6 to 9 December 2016, with the emphasis on Bagan, the ancient city which has been the centerpiece of religious and cultural heritage of Myanmar since 11<sup>th</sup> century. There were lectures for two days and a five-day field trip to





knowledge on how the state sponsorship of religion created ideal art of that time and current situation of Bagan.

Bagan and Poppa. The two-day lecture consists Historical Overviews of Bagan, Bagan Art and Architecture, Economic Life of Bagan, Contemporary Bagan, Concentration of Tourist Attractions in Bagan and Religion and Belief of Bagan. Six participants from Thailand, the Philippines, and Japan joined the programme. Participants gained

## 2.2 National Development Programme

One of our centre's objectives is to promote cooperation in the study of history and traditions among member countries and the development of a greater regional identity through research, human resource development, education and public awareness programme. To achieve this objective, the Centre invited two experts with the kind help of Governing Board Member



from Singapore, Dr Kenneth Lee. The experts are Dr Goh Geok Yian, Associate Professor of History and Director of History Programme and Dr Koh Keng We, Assistant Professor, History Programme from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. On 25 to 26 May 2017, they gave lectures on Colonialism, Plural Society, and the making of

modern Singapore, Travails of Nationhood, Heritage, Identity and Globalization: Cosmopolitan Nation and a brave new world, Sources on Temasek (Ancient Singapore), and Urbanism in Singapore. It was participated by 66 academic staff from universities of Yangon and Mandalay. It met the Centre's objective and participants gain wider knowledge and understanding more of the history and traditions of Singapore from national perspectives and can also share the knowledge to their students.



For Community Involvement Programme (CIP), CHAT awarding prizes to secondary level students outstanding in History subject has been carried out every year in BEMS No. 3 Insein, since 2010, in order to encourage the students' interest in learning history. For year 2016-17, six students from



different grades have been selected as the outstanding students in History subject. 13 secondary level students from different grades outstanding in township level essay and

English language skill competitions were awarded the prizes by the Centre on 21 January 2017. For the outstanding students from new adopted school, BEPS No 6 Kyeemyin-taing, the ceremony on awarding prizes was held on 21 August 2016. 12 students outstanding in township level competitions on essay and poem compositions and English language skill were also awarded by the Centre.

To celebrate the Union Day, CHAT arranged the essay and poem competition, and a talk on Union Day for the students on 12 February 2017. Prizes on the selected essay were given to the students. To raise the school capacity, CHAT provided books in English and drawing



books to the school library of BEMS No 3 Insein. In addition CHAT also gave the chance to the four history teachers from two adapted school to participate in the workshop on Effective Ways of Teaching History in Secondary School of Southeast Asia conducted in December, 2016.

### 3. Recognition and Benchmarking

CHAT's officers have been invited to provide advice and supervision to some organizations and institutions.

Dr Khin Lay Soe, Dr Win Myat Aung and Dr Naw Si Blut have been occasionally invited by the Department of Library Studies, Department of International Relations and Department of History, University of Yangon to be the supervisor, and the external examiner of the M.A., M. Res., and Ph.D. candidates.

## **KRA 2: Regional Visibility**

### **1. Strengthening and Increasing Linkages**

#### **1.1 Collaborative Activities with International Institutions**

With the mission to promote in the study of history and traditions, SEAMEO CHAT hosted the third workshop on Women, Ancestry and Heritage (Oral History) for three days with the cooperation of International Gender Studies Centre at Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, George Mason University,



and UNESCO, Myanmar on 4 to 6 October 2016. Its purpose is to serve the needs of education, heritage, research, teaching, outreach and archival holdings. 40 participants from History and Anthropology Departments of universities in Yangon and Mandalay regions took part in the workshop. The workshop is very successful and a beneficial one for all participants.

Jointly organized by CSEAS, Kyoto University, Yezin Agriculture University, and SEAMEO CHAT, the international workshop on Myanmar Way of Agricultural and Rural Development: Considering the Approach of GNH of Bhutan Way and Cultural, History and Tradition for Sustainable Development in Myanmar was conducted on 14 - 22 December 2016 at Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw and University of Agriculture, Yezin.



#### **1.2 Visitors to CHAT**

During this fiscal year, various guests from different local and international institutions, government and non-government organizations visited CHAT.

SEAMEO SEN Director and group on 27 June 2016 visited the Centre for Inter-centre collaboration upcoming programmes.

CHAT welcomed Mr Shigeaki Kodama, Project Research Fellow, and International Research Center for Intangible Cultural Heritage in the Asia-Pacific Region for the research on ICH Safeguarding and Disaster-Risk Management in the Asia Pacific Region for intangible cultural heritage in Myanmar.

On February, 2017, Professor H Rudiger Korff, Southeast Asian Studies, University of Passau and Dr Dakmar visited the centre to discuss signing MOU between Passau University and CHAT.

Dr Elizabeth Moore from SOAS visited the Centre several times during this fiscal year to discuss possible collaboration on organizing an International Conference at CHAT.

CHAT warmly welcomed the SEAMEO Council President and Minister of Education Thailand and delegates on their visit to CHAT. The visit started with welcome address and power point presentation on Centre's activities. Then President gave a speech for the Centre, congratulating on the successful activities, publications on culture, and traditions of SEAMEO member countries. The president on his visit to Myanmar was accompanied by Dr Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat and officials from the Ministry of Education, Thailand.

## **2. Increase Means for Stakeholders to Access SEAMEO Programme**

Activities such as Seminar, Conference and Lecture Series have been included in the local media, distribution of promotional brochures.

SEAMEO CHAT official webpage and social networking site Facebook supplemented the Centre's other information materials. To negotiate with web developer CHAT still has some the constraints to update the contents.

## **KRA 3: Solid Resource Base**

### **1. Financial Viability**

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has provided the Centre with the salaries of the Centre staff and operating expenses as well as facilities of the Centre. Compared with the previous fiscal year 2015/16 to current year, the budget has increase 5.5%.

With Special Educational Development Fund (SEDF) provided by the SEAMEO Secretariat, the Centre has been able to carry out its main activities. There was an increase in expenditure from the Special Funds by 5.7%.

## **2. Management Efficiency**

### **a. SEAMEO Coordinating Meeting**

#### **1. 39<sup>th</sup> High Official Meeting**

Deputy Director attended the 39<sup>th</sup> High Official Meeting held on 15-17, November 2016 at Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand, along with other 114 delegates comprising officials from Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member Countries, representatives of SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members, Directors/Deputy Directors of SEAMEO Centres/Network. They reviewed planned programs, and operation of the organizations. Decisions and recommendations from the meeting were made for the 49<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Meeting which was held on 24 to 26 July 2017.

#### **2. 49<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference**

The conference was organized by the Ministry of Education and Culture Indonesia, in collaboration with SEAMEO Secretariat on 24-27 July 2017 at Hotel Mulia Senayan, Jakarta, Indonesia. It had 209 participants representing 11 SEAMEO member countries, one Associate and three Affiliate Members, 10 partners/observers, 21 Regional Centres and SEAMEO Secretariat. At the Conference, the proclamation of three new centres, namely SEAMEO Regional Centre Early Childhood Care Education and Parenting (SEAMEO CECCEP) in Indonesia; SEAMEO Regional Centre for Community Education Development (SEAMEO CED) in Lao PDR and SEAMEO Regional Centre for Technical Education Development (SEAMEO TED) in Cambodia was announced. The SEAMEO Council took note and approved updated reports presented by SEAMEO Secretariat and respected Centres.

#### **3. 2017 Centre Director Meeting**

Officials of SEAMEO Centres/Network, representatives of SEAMEO Associate and Affiliate Members as well as partners, altogether 80 attended this meeting. This year the meeting was held on 26 to 28 July, 2017 at the Ministry of Education and Culture, Indonesia. Deputy Director together with SEAMEO Directors and officials reported each centre's conducted programmes and activities as well as achievement throughout the year. As networking session, one from Associate Member Country, five from Affiliate members presented about their organization. In addition, the three-year-program of cooperation of SEAMEO Centres with Ministry of Education and Culture Indonesia was discussed at the special session.

### **b. 15<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting**

SEAMEO CHAT Governing Board members along with representatives of SEAMEO member countries and the SEAMEO Secretariat convened the 15<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting at Thazin Garden Hotel, Bagan from 29 to 30 September, 2016. The Centre tabled a total of nine working papers for the deliberation of the board members. The meeting took note, made

decisions and gave suggestions on the Centre's programmes and activities.

### **3. Human Resource Management**

The Centre is committed to the development of our human resources through emphasis on training programmes to upgrade the knowledge and skills.

#### **a. Staff Development**

The Centre gave the opportunities for its staff to have some experiences on SEAMEO activities and other institutions' activities.

Dr Win Myat Aung, Senior Research Officer has finished the scholarship programme and got the diploma in Asia Art from SOAS, London University, where he learned Indian Arts, Chinese Arts and Buddhist Arts, three months each, for 10 months from September 2015 to July 2016.

#### **b. Staff Participation in International Conference, Forum, Seminar and Workshop**

Deputy Director Dr Khin Lay Soe attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Workshop on Southeast Asia School Library which was held on 18-19 October 2016 at the University of Indonesia, Depok.

Director Daw Myint Myint Ohn and two senior staff participated in "Philippines Myanmar Education Forum" held on 28 October 2016 at UNFCCI, Yangon.

Director attended International Conference on "Nationalism, Narrow-mindedness, and Aggression: Does the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Reoccur? Answers, Perspectives and Ideas from the International Adult Education Community" from 17 to 18 November, 2016 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

Assistant Director Dr Win Myat Aung attended Q and Q Methods in Designing Development Evaluation for SEAMEO Centres which organized by SEAMEO TROPED Network from 5 to 8 December 2016 at Centara Watergate Hotel, Bangkok

Deputy Director presented a paper "Necessity of Preserving Our Tangible Heritage: Manuscripts" at Symposium for Digitization and Preservation of Myanmar Old Manuscripts which was held from 13 to 14 December 2016 at University of Yangon for its 96<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Deputy Director went on a study tour programme for the purpose of learning experience on depopulation and abandoning farming in Japan without proper evaluating traditional socio-cultural value and livelihood life-style from 16 to 22 December 2016.

A Workshop on Myanmar Way of Agricultural and Rural Development: Considering the Approach of GNH of Bhutan Way and Cultural, History and



Tradition for Sustainable Development in Myanmar on 6-8, January 2017 at Amara Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw and University of Agricultural, Yezin. Dr Khin Lay Soe, presented a paper on Potential of Culture, history and traditions in MWARD and Daw Myint Myint Ohn, Dr Win Myat Aung and Dr Naw Si Blut participated in the workshop.

Two Assistant Directors Dr Win Myat Aung and Dr Naw Si Blut participated in the International Workshop on Social Stability and Inclusive Economic Development in Developing Southeast Asia on 9-11, January 2017 at Royal University of Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

Invited by CSEAS, Kyoto University, Director and two Senior Programme Officers went to Kyoto, Japan to learn Japanese practice on abandon farming, deforesting and depopulation and to seek opportunity for GNH and ICH project from 17 to 24 February 2017.

Assistant Director Dr Naw Si Blut and staff Daw Htet Htet Naing joined the training programme for newly established SEAMEO Centres staff for one month from 24 April to 19 May 2017 at SEAMEO Secretariat Office, Bangkok.

From 3 to 4 May, 2017 Deputy Director and two staff participated in the International Congress on Education for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century “Making a Difference: Shaping a New Learning Paradigm for a Sustainable Southeast Asia” held at The Berkeley Hotel Pratunam, Bangkok.

### **c. Staff Gathering**

At CHAT we take great care to promote a sense of belonging and harmony among our staff through social gathering and festive celebrations.

To create closeness and better cooperation among the Centre staff, Centre staff went on a two-day study tour to Ngwe Saung, Patheingyi, in Ayeyarwaddy Division from 1 to 2 March 2016.

Paying homage to elders and former directors in October, Christmas celebration in December, Waso robe and Kathain robe donations to monks in August and October have been kept as traditions at the Centre in FY 2016/17.

To get stronger networking in Education sector, the Centre invited guests from other departments and had some Myanmar food together at Myanmar New Year falls in April.