

## **SEAMEO News Clipping**

Headline: Minister of Education in Vietnam for Conference

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THE Minister of Education, YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Awg Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong is currently in Vietnam where he is attending the 47th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council Conference (SEAMEC) between March 19 and 21.



The Minister of Education, YB Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Hj Awg Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong cuts the ribbon alongside his counterparts throughout Asean, in Vietnam

The minister in his capacity as the President of the SEAMEO Council earlier made a courtesy call to the President of the Republic of Vietnam, Truong Tan Sang, who also officiated the launch of the conference.

In his speech, the president shared with the audience the progress on the development of education in Vietnam in post-degree as well as vocational and technical education, and stressed that his government is committed toward supporting educational programmes, training, and research in line with the SEAMEO framework.



The Minister of Education presents his speech

To fulfil the responsibility as the country chair for SEAMEC, the president also voiced the commitment of his country towards contributing to the development of SEAMEO with regard to the goals of peace and prosperity of each and every member country, affiliates and associate members.

The minister in his speech talked about strengthening SEAMEO regional centres, taking a cautious approach over fiscal matters, ensuring financial sustainability of the centres, the need to audit the function of every centre, and ultimately all the efforts required to realise the SEAMEO vision for 2020.

The SEAMEC also saw the launching of the SEAMEO College, which was attended by the minister; Vietnam's Minister of Education and Training, Professor Dr Pham Vu Luan; SEAMEO Secretariat Executive, Dr Witaya Jeradechakul; Director General of International Affairs at the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) of Japan, Shigeharu Kato; Deputy Director for the Asian Development Bank residential mission in Vietnam, Andrew Head; and the Principal Education Specialist of Southeast Asia. Yasushi Hirasato.

The college is a mechanism that acts as a platform for leaders in the field of education to hold dialogues and sharing sessions.

The minster chaired the first and second plenaries and voting to appoint the 47th President of the SEAMEO Council, which saw the Minister of Education and Training of Vietnam appointed.

The minister also held meetings with his Singapore counterpart, Heng Swee Keat and discussed areas of mutual interest.

Also present in Vietnam were Brunei Darussalam Ambassador to Vietnam, Hj Mahadi bin Wasli; Permanent Secretary (Core Education) at the Ministry of Education, Dr Hj Junaidi bin Hj Abd Rahman, and senior officials at the ministry.