

5th Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers: Singapore Statement



5th Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM) (Virtual) Theme: “New Education Imperatives in a Post-COVID Era”

COMMITMENT TO ACTION

SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANISATION COUNCIL 2021

We, the Member Countries of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (SEAMEO), gathered virtually for the Fifth Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM), having reviewed the regional initiatives and recognised the need to develop collective recommendations;

Appreciate the gains and progress in the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries despite the challenges posed by unprecedented education disruptions;

Embrace partnership and collaboration as critical enablers in transforming education in Southeast Asia, while recognising the importance of ensuring access to quality education and leaving no learner behind;

We, therefore, **call to action** the SEAMEO Member Countries, Associate Member Countries, and Affiliate Members and partners, to champion education transformation in Southeast Asia through strategic collaboration and partnerships.

To achieve this, SEAMEO Member Countries should focus their cooperation in the region on:

1. **Expanding** educational innovations for a technology-pervasive future;
2. **Deepening** resilience in education systems to respond to challenges;
3. **Fostering** an education environment that continues to uplift the marginalised and most vulnerable members of the Southeast Asian education ecosystem;
4. **Supporting** capacity building for teachers and education personnel in developing future-ready learners in an ever-evolving world;
5. **Working** with SEAMEO Units to promote a spirit of lifelong learning; and
6. **Creating** a policy environment that enhances collaboration and partnership among key education actors, to transform education and science in a manner consistent with Southeast Asian identity and culture.

We, the Heads of Delegation participating in the Fifth Strategic Dialogue, recommend that the SEAMEO Secretariat and the SEAMEO Regional Centres and Network continue collaborating with international and regional partners and stakeholders to prepare teachers and learners amidst uncertainties and challenges.

We further appreciate the support of the Government of Singapore in organising this Strategic Dialogue.

We, therefore, agreed to adopt this statement, **SEAMEO Council's Commitment to Action (the Singapore Statement)**, to focus on innovative transformations in education in Southeast Asia through partnerships.

Adopted on the **Seventeenth day of June**, year **Two Thousand and Twenty-One**.