



## **The Launch of Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2019 Results**

**1-2 December 2020  
TBC, Bangkok, Thailand**

### **Concept Note**

#### **Background**

UNICEF East Asia Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO) and the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) have been jointly developing Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) since 2014. With the establishment of SEA-PLM, Southeast Asia has its first regional large-scale learning assessment programme measuring the learning proficiencies of grade 5 students<sup>1</sup> across countries in the region in four modules including mathematics, reading, writing, and global citizenship. In addition to the main assessment survey, background questionnaires gathering important contextual information from students, parents, teachers and school principals are provided to understand variables affecting students' learning outcomes.

The key objective of SEA-PLM is to support participating countries to develop robust learning assessment systems, enabling them to monitor students' learning outcomes, thereby contributing to a more equitable and quality education for all. In addition to conducting the main regional learning assessment, SEA-PLM recognises the importance of strengthening capacity of human resources related to monitoring and reporting students' learning outcomes. Each year, SEA-PLM Secretariat organises regular capacity building activities for all SEA-PLM national teams to generate, analyse, report and utilise assessment data to monitor education progress. In addition to providing supports to participating countries by equipping important knowledge and skills of key national representatives for better measuring and understanding the status of end of primary students' learning proficiencies, these efforts are crucial for developing effective reporting learning outcomes of SEA-PLM national teams at the national, regional and international levels.

Led by SEA-PLM Secretariat, co-chaired by UNICEF EAPRO and SEAMEO, and international experts, culturally appropriate metrics to learning outcomes associated with reading, writing, mathematics and global citizenship. With technical support by the Australian Council for Educational Research (ACER) and international experts, SEA-PLM has been developed specifically for the Southeast Asia region based on the curriculum of SEAMEO countries: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Myanmar, and Vietnam. In addition to the regional context,

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<sup>1</sup> The target group for SEA-PLM 2019 is students in Grade 5. In some ASEAN countries, this level marks the completion of primary education, providing a meaningful point of measurement across the region. Assessment data is collected from a national representative sample of the students enrolled in grade 5 in each participating country.

developing SEA-PLM instruments have taken into consideration of international learning assessment standards and practices.

SEA-PLM promotes evidence-based policy development in ASEAN. SEA-PLM assessment results can be used to inform the Ministries of Education of SEA-PLM participating countries on the status of national basic education considering regional and international milestones. Understanding factors driving and hindering students' learning can further shape related policies such as curriculum design, teaching pedagogy, and school practices. Improving national education systems is a strong foundation to increase ASEAN competitiveness in education. With a strong emphasis of SEA-PLM on capacity building to monitor progress in improving the quality and equity of education, such efforts are crucial for materialising the ASEAN Workplan Plan on Education 2016-2020, and critical to the realisation of Sustainable Development Goal 4, particularly the monitoring and reporting of Target 4.1 on “relevant and effective learning outcomes” by the end of primary in Southeast Asia.

The first round of SEA-PLM assessment has progressed from methodological development, pilot-testing to main survey implementation. The main survey was successfully implemented in 2019 in six SEAMEO member countries, which include Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines and Vietnam. The results of SEA-PLM 2019, addressed in reference to the year of main survey implementation, will be officially launched on 1 December 2020. The launch of SEA-PLM 2019 results represents a significant milestone for the SEA-PLM programme for reporting and disseminating results at the regional and national levels. The launch serves as an entry point to inform policy makers and practitioners to further develop basic education policy for improving students' learning outcomes. Designed to deliver the comparative data of national systems level through cyclic rounds of surveys, SEA-PLM 2019, the second round of SEA-PLM is underway and will be further introduced.

### **Format**

The launch event will be organised using a blended approach integrating online and in-person conference components. Participants who are based in Bangkok and representatives of SEA-PLM national teams will be invited to join the event in-person. Due to travel restrictions, international participants can participate the meeting using the video conferencing platform. A provisional programme at a glance of this event is provided below. A final programme with a meeting link will be sent to all invited participants in due course.

### **Contact**

Kindly contact the SEA-PLM Secretariat at [seaplm@seameo.org](mailto:seaplm@seameo.org) and/or Dr Salita Soongsawang at [salita@seameo.org](mailto:salita@seameo.org) for any questions related to SEA-PLM and this event.



## The Launch of Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM) 2019 Results

**1-2 December 2020  
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### Provisional Programme at a Glance

*As of 30 September 2020*

**Day 1: Official Launch of SEA-PLM 2019 Results  
Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 09.00-12.00hrs. (GMT+7: Bangkok Time)**

TIME	SESSION
08.45 – 09.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Registration</li> </ul>
<b>PUBLIC LAUNCH</b>	
09.00 – 09.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Welcome remarks and group photo</li> </ul>
09.15 – 09.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEA-PLM introduction: history, achievements and contributions</li> </ul>
09.30 – 10.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key regional trends and policy implications from the 1<sup>st</sup> SEA-PLM regional report: SEA-PLM 2019 results</li> </ul>
10.00 – 10.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ministerial messages on SEA-PLM national results and policy responses</li> </ul>
10.30 – 10.45	Break
10.45 – 11.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expert and partner testimonials: implications of SEA-PLM 2019 results for policies, practices and research</li> </ul>
11.15 – 11.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Next steps: upcoming activities and next SEA-PLM round announcement</li> </ul>
11.45 – 12.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Closing remarks</li> </ul>
<b>PRESS CONFERENCE</b>	
12.00 – 12.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Press conference and interviews</li> </ul>
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch

**Day 2: Policy Discussion: SEA-PLM 2019 Results in Focus**  
**Wednesday 2 December 2020 at 13.00-16.00hrs. (GMT+7: Bangkok Time)**

TIME	SESSION
12.45 – 13.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registration</li> </ul>
<b>POLICY DISCUSSION</b>	
13.00 – 13.15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welcome remarks and group photo</li> </ul>
13.15 – 14.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SEA-PLM 2019 results in focus: quality learning and equity outcomes</li> </ul>
14.00 – 14.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Q &amp; A session</li> </ul>
14.30 – 14.45	Break
14.45 – 15.30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Turning results into actions: round table comments and reflections</li> </ul>
<b>PLENARY SUMMARY</b>	
15.30 – 15.45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Summary and way forward</li> </ul>
15.45 – 16.00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closing remarks</li> </ul>