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Education is very important in bringing a better quality of life of people in the region.

At the individual level, education offers the opportunity for a person to acquire new knowledge, learn relevant skills and pathways to realise personal aspirations. At the macro level, education is strongly linked to economic productivity, technological advancement, higher income, and lowered poverty levels.

In today’s globalised world, national education becomes even more important. This is due to the fact that the people have to be able to respond to the global outlook and be ready to seize global opportunities.

In terms of its role to socio-cultural development, education takes greater significance in multi-ethnic and multi-religious societies. Education can help to raise awareness of commonalities and shared values among different communities.

As I had mentioned in my opening remarks in the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference in Kuala Lumpur on 13 March 2008, I am very happy to note that both the SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Regional Centres have made significant progress. I, therefore, strongly support the Secretariat and all Centres to continuously demonstrate their values to their host countries and demonstrate their usefulness to the region.

Furthermore, I am happy to mention that our organisation moves forward in line with directions stated in its vision and mission.

I am sure that with the support of the governments of the region, SEAMEO will continue to do its valuable services and be able to participate in solving the challenges faced by SEAMEO Member Countries. This is because SEAMEO could also serve as a window for looking outward beyond individual countries in Southeast Asia, and highlight the capacities and development trends of the region.

Let me once again express my thanks to the Ministry of Education Malaysia. My thanks also go to my colleagues in the Council for the support they have given to me during my term as the President of the SEAMEO Council. I would like also to acknowledge the support extended by all members, associate and affiliate members, the Director and staff of SEAMEO Secretariat, and the Directors of SEAMEO Centres for their industrious and efficient work dedicated to our organisation.

Finally let me express my commitment to support the new SEAMEO Council President, the Minister of Education, Malaysia.
SEAMEO continued to engage in education initiatives and kept abreast with education trends in the region during fiscal year 2006-2007.

The 15 SEAMEO Regional Centres implemented their activities that further promoted issues on education for sustainable development and climate change, information and communication technologies, science and mathematics, language in early education, regional identity, teacher training, values-based water education, quality assurance in higher education and educational leadership.

Further, the regional centres worked on improving secondary education, vocational and technical education, and peace education that promotes regional and international understanding.

In all these activities, the regional centres provided scholarships, research fellowships and training courses in the specific disciplines that they are engaged in, often jointly or in partnership with other centres and with various SEAMEO partners.

The Ministries of Education of the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries were very supportive of the SEAMEO Regional Centres’ continuing and emerging initiatives.

With the support of the education ministries, SEAMEO continues to expand its network of partners within and outside Southeast Asia, linkaging and networking with specialised agencies and organisations that have similar pursuits and interests, notwithstanding the diversity of the SEAMEO Member Countries and the activities of the SEAMEO units.

SEAMEO’s determination to face the challenges that come with fast-paced development trends and global changes that influence education are expressed in the activities and accomplishments contained in this report.

On behalf of the SEAMEO Secretariat, I would like to thank the continuing and strengthening support from the ASEAN Secretariat, the Organization’s sparring partner in convening the annual back-to-back SEAMEO Council Conference and the ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting. We are also very grateful for the cooperation from the UN-HABITAT, World Bank, UNESCO, ADB, and SIL International.

Sustaining the activities was easier with the attention and support given by the education ministries, their high officials and desk officers and the SEAMEO Regional Centres’ governing boards.
ABOUT SEAMEO

SEAMEO
SEAMEO MEMBERS
SEAMEO SECRETARIAT
SEAMEO UNITS
About SEAMEO

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) is an international and intergovernmental organization established in 1965 to promote regional cooperation in education, science, and culture.

Its 11 Member Countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. It embodies eight Associate Member Countries: Australia, Canada, France, Germany, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, and Spain; and one Affiliate Member, the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE).

The SEAMEO Council, the Organization’s governing body, is composed of the 11 ministers of education of the SEAMEO Member Countries. The Council determines the general policies and strategic directions of the Organization. The SEAMEO Secretariat, based in Bangkok, Thailand, is the headquarters and executive arm of the Council.

Over the past three decades, SEAMEO has developed 15 specialist institutions in eight of its 11 Member Countries that provide regional leadership in human resource development and the diverse expertise that they offer in learning, health and environment, and agriculture and natural resources.

These SEAMEO units are closely linked with the educational environment of the country hosting them. Each regional centre has its own governing board with a representative from each Member Country.

The regional centres maintain SEAMEO’s work and aspirations to nurture human capacities and explore the fullest potentials of people in the region through quality and equity in education, preventive health, culture and tradition, training, research, information and communications technology, languages, poverty alleviation, and agricultural and natural resources.

Since its inception, the SEAMEO has not only become the oldest chartered intergovernmental organisation serving the Southeast Asian region but also Southeast Asia’s largest and most dependable service provider in human resource development.
### AREAS OF SPECIALISATION

1. Archaeology and Fine Arts
2. Community Nutrition
3. Distance and Open Learning
4. Education in Science and Mathematics
5. Educational Innovation and Technology
6. Educational Management
7. Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
8. Higher Education
9. History and Tradition
10. Language
11. Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology
12. Public Health
13. Tropical Biology
14. Tropical Medicine
15. Vocational and Technical Education and Training

### AREAS OF PRIORITY

1. Agriculture and Natural Resources
2. Culture and Tradition
3. Information and Communication Technology
4. Language
5. Poverty Alleviation
6. Preventive Health Education
7. Quality and Equity in Education

### MEMBER COUNTRIES

- Brunei Darussalam
- Cambodia
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Myanmar
- The Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Timor-Leste
- Vietnam

### ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES

- Australia
- Canada
- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Spain

### AFFILIATE MEMBER

International Council for Open and Distance Education
Primary functions:

- Execute the instructions and decisions of the SEAMEO Council
- Convene the key meetings of the Organization: the Centre Directors Meeting (CDM), the High Officials Meeting (HOM) and the SEAMEO Council Conference (SEAMEC)
- Present the recommendations of the SEAMEO Centres from the CDM to the HOM for endorsement of the Council
- Liaise between the Council and the SEAMEO Centres
- Coordinate activities and facilitate cooperation among SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Centres, partners and institutions
- Develop membership, raise and manage funds, execute public relations, disseminate information, organise special projects and develop project proposals on behalf of the Organization

Programmes:

Community Involvement Project – Coordinates with the SEAMEO Centres in sharing expertise in education, science and culture with selected schools in SEAMEO Member Countries to improve school systems and to help schools achieve sustainability, focusing on students, teachers, learning facilities, school management and parents’ involvement

Conferences – Organises joint seminars and workshops integrating various interests in education, science and culture

Information Dissemination – Compiles and updates information about the Organization and coordinates with the entire SEAMEO network and other partners beyond the Southeast Asian region in information exchange

Internship – Coordinates with organisations and governments from around the world in developing the skills of young people in professional work, especially attaining international work experience

Partnerships – Establishes relations with local, national and international organisations, institutions and individuals with interest in education in Southeast Asia to provide a venue for foreign cooperation and educational innovation and excellence

Press Awards – The SEAMEO-Australia Press Award, which is given annually to print journalists in the region to recognise excellence in the coverage of education, is a collaboration between SEAMEO and the Government of Australia and in coordination with the University of Melbourne and its Asia Link Centre.

Research Fellowships – The SEAMEO-Jasper Research Award is an annual grant bestowed by the Government of Canada and SEAMEO for outstanding research conducted by nationals of the 11 SEAMEO Member Countries; it provides endowments to support research fellows in the specialisation of their choice.

Study Visits – Plans and organises, with the full cooperation of SEAMEO Member and Associate Member Countries, to acquaint and widen the educational and cultural perspectives of people in the region and citizens around the world about Southeast Asia
SEAMEO BIOTROP
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology
Located in Bogor, Indonesia, the main activities of the SEAMEO BIOTROP focus on Forest, Pest and Aquatic Biology. It assists SEAMEO Member Countries in developing the expertise to identify, prioritise, analyse and recommend solutions or alternative approaches to critical biological problems in the region, especially those related to sustainable development of tropical ecosystems.

SEAMEO CHAT
SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition
Based in Yagon, Myanmar, the SEAMEO CHAT was inaugurated in December 2000. It promotes cooperation in the study of history and tradition among SEAMEO Member Countries through research, human resource development, education and networking.

SEAMEO INNOTECH
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Educational Innovation and Technology
Based in the Philippines, the SEAMEO INNOTECH initiates and disseminates innovative and technology oriented educational programmes that help SEAMEO Member Countries identify and solve common or unique educational problems and address anticipated needs.

SEAMEO RECSAM
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics
Established in the island state of Penang, Malaysia, the SEAMEO RECSAM is designed to meet the needs of the SEAMEO Member Countries in developing science, mathematics and technology education programmes.
SEAMEO UNITS

SEAMEO RELC
SEAMEO Regional Language Centre
Located in Singapore, the SEAMEO RELC provides SEAMEO Member Countries with expertise, training facilities and training programmes to upgrade the skills of language specialists and educators. Programmes focus on knowledge and pedagogic disciplines of language teaching and learning.

SEAMEO RETRAC
SEAMEO Regional Training Centre
Located in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, the SEAMEO RETRAC assists SEAMEO Member Countries especially Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam to identify and solve common problems in human resource development. Its area of specialisation is educational management.

SEAMEO RIHED
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development
Hosted by the Government of Thailand, the SEAMEO RIHED plays a crucial role in the capability building of SEAMEO Member Countries in the field of higher education. It responds to needs on policy and planning, administration and management of higher education.

SEAMEO SEAMOLEC
SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre
Located in Indonesia, the SEAMEO SEAMOLEC assists SEAMEO Member Countries in identifying educational problems and finding alternative solutions for sustainable human resource development through the dissemination and effective use of open learning and distance education.
SEAMEO SEARCA
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
The SEAMEO SEARCA, hosted by the Government of the Philippines, serves the agriculture and rural needs of the region through its human resource development programmes, research and extension activities.

SEAMEO SPAFA
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts
Hosted by the Government of Thailand, the SEAMEO SPAFA cultivates awareness and appreciation of cultural heritage; promotes and enriches archaeological and cultural activities in the region; and furthers professional competence in the fields of archaeology and fine arts to advance mutual knowledge and understanding among SEAMEO Member Countries.

SEAMEO TROPMED Network
SEAMEO Regional Tropical Medicine and Public Health Network
The SEAMEO TROPMED Network has four regional centres in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. The central office is located in Bangkok. The Network’s overall role is to promote health and to prevent and control tropical diseases and public health problems.

SEAMEO TROPMED/Indonesia
SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Community Nutrition
The SEAMEO TROPMED/Indonesia, based at the University of Indonesia in Jakarta, has provided training and research in nutrition since 1970. It trains nutritionists, health professionals and personnel from other nutrition related disciplines in planning, executing and evaluating nutrition policies and interventions.
SEAMEO TROPMED/Malaysia
SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Microbiology, Parasitology and Entomology

The SEAMEO TROPMED/Malaysia, located at the Institute for Medical Research in Kuala Lumpur, conducts research on the prevention and control of diseases and provides specialised training, diagnostic, consultative and advisory services. It promotes health management as a collective responsibility of government, the private sector, non-government organisations, the community and individuals.

SEAMEO TROPMED/Philippines
SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Public Health

The SEAMEO TROPMED/Philippines, based in the College of Public Health of the University of the Philippines in Manila, conducts research and training in the fields of public health, rural medicine, hospital administration, environmental and occupational health, health policy and management.

SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand
SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centre for Tropical Medicine

The SEAMEO TROPMED/Thailand, hosted by the Faculty of Tropical Medicine, Mahidol University, Bangkok, offers training on endemic tropical diseases, parasitology, community and preventive medicine. It also conducts researches on alternative control measures of diseases and the promotion of healthy lifestyles, including trials of new chemotherapeutic compounds and new vaccines. It provides clinical care to patients suffering from tropical diseases.

SEAMEO VOCTECH
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training

Hosted by Brunei Darussalam, the SEAMEO VOCTECH is designed to improve the management of vocational and technical education and training (VTET) in SEAMEO Member Countries. The Centre strives to develop and deliver relevant programmes in VTET to meet the local, national and regional needs in socio-economic, industrial, business and labour markets.
CONTRIBUTIONS

AUSTRALIA
CANADA
FRANCE
GERMANY
THE NETHERLANDS
NEW ZEALAND
NORWAY
SPAIN
The SEAMEO enabled a broader participation in conducting its programmes and projects through the generous help of SEAMEO Associate Members. The Organization actively engages a range of partners cooperating in research, training and human resource development, information dissemination and other regional initiatives in support of its goals.

For FY 2006/2007, the Organization received, through the SEAMEO Secretariat, the annual membership contributions of the Member Countries and Associate Member Countries, including contributions to the SEAMEO untied funds. Contributions from Associate Members accounted for 54% of the Organization’s operational projects, amounting to US$ 2.6 million. The Associate Member States gave direct support for various projects undertaken by the different SEAMEO units – the SEAMEO Regional Centres and Network. These projects include:

1. Provision of graduate and post-graduate scholarships administered by the SEAMEO Centres and Network for nationals of SEAMEO Member Countries and third countries;
2. Participation/collaboration in research and development projects;
3. Support for organising training courses, seminars, workshops, conferences and other human resource development-oriented activities initiated by SEAMEO units;
4. Provision of technical experts, interns, equipment and facilities, publications and other information materials, travel grants and other forms of support to SEAMEO units; and
5. Partnership in execution and implementation of special initiatives.

Direct assistance from bilateral partners comprised nine projects and activities supported by the Kingdom of Denmark, Japan, the Republic of Korea, the United States of America and the United Kingdom. Assistance from the bilateral partner countries accounted for 18% of the project disbursements, with a total of US$ 0.88 million.

The SEAMEO units were engaged by six Member States to implement specific technical assistance projects; these projects were funded in addition to the regular programme support given by the Member States to the SEAMEO Regional Centres. For the period in review, the Member Countries supported some US$ 0.88 million in projects, accounting for 18% of the total project funds operated by the Organization. The engagement of SEAMEO units to implement projects of Member Countries, either within the country or to serve third countries, can be regarded as a recognition of the SEAMEO units as valuable knowledge resource for the Member Countries. The emergence of Southeast Asian countries that serve as donors of development assistance can be regarded as a new role of SEAMEO units, being the channel for development assistance to third countries.

The SEAMEO units implemented 10 projects with the support of private foundations and companies. Among the projects, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC garnered support from the Deutsche Bank in curriculum improvement for Banda Aceh, Indonesia. The project was developed within the framework of the HELP Programme; the total contribution from the partners representing the private sector amounted to US$ 161,733.00. This is the first time that contributions from
the private sector had been disaggregated. In the future, engagement with private foundations and corporate social responsibility projects may account for a larger proportion of the SEAMEO units’ project portfolio.

Multilateral development agencies funded projects amounting to US$ 0.34 million, or about 7% of the total projects operated by the Organization. The following multilateral organisations have been the partners of SEAMEO for the year in review:

1. The ASEAN Foundation
2. Asian Institute of Technology
3. Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
4. United Nations Children’s Fund
5. United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
6. UNESCO Asia Pacific Centre for Education for International Understanding
7. United Nations Industrial Development Organization
8. United Nations Human Settlements Programme

The SEAMEO Priority Focus Areas, adopted in 2003, provided a framework for classifying the extrabudgetary projects along certain thematic areas. These, however, may not be exhaustive and precise, because certain themes cut across development priorities. Some projects cover several priority concerns. The emerging profile of projects by themes, however, may give some indications of the themes that generate external support.

Quality and Equity in Education accounted for an overwhelmingly high proportion of the projects, followed by Agriculture and Natural Resources. The category was further broken down into Biotechnology and Environment to account for the emerging areas that generate support. Together, the two Biotechnology and Environment ranked third. The other projects dealt with Preventive Health Education, Southeast Asian Culture and Traditions, Language, Poverty Reduction and Information and Communications Technology.

The projects supported by external donors are grouped as follow:

1. Technical Assistance
2. Capacity Building and Human Resource Development
3. Short-term Training, Seminars, Conferences & Workshops
4. Long-term Training, Graduate Scholarships
5. Research and Development

Based on the volume of external support, Technical Assistance, Capacity Building/Human Resource Development and Short-term Training and Seminars were the top three categories. Together, the three types of projects accounted for nearly 80 percent of the funding support. Long-term Training and Scholarships and Research and Development Projects generated about 10 and eight percents, respectively.
AUSTRALIA

The government of Australia and Australian institutions supported the projects of SEAMEO INNOTECH and SEAMEO SEARCA. Through the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAID), Australia supported SEAMEO INNOTECH’s consultancy services to Melbourne University Private Ltd under the “Strengthening Implementation of Basic Education in Selected Provinces in Visayas (STRIVE) Project. The AusAID also supported the Philippines-Australia Basic Education Assistance for Mindanao (BEAM) as a Member of the Quality Assessment Panel and the internship of the staff under the Volunteering for International Development for Australia.

Through the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research, Australia also supported SEAMEO SEARCA’s Project on Sustaining and Growing Landcare Systems in the Philippines and Australia. The University of Queensland continues to be part of the Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education and Natural Resources. AusAID and Land Equity International also gave support to the Organizational Assessment and Change Management Consultancy for the Land Administration Management Project 2.

Australia continued to grant fellowships to Southeast Asian journalists who developed and published excellent reportage of education issues in the region through the annual SEAMEO-Australia Press Award.

CANADA

Canada provided assistance to SEAMEO INNOTECH’s Institutional Visit and Assessment Project for SIAST, Canada, including the international internship programme for both SEAMEO SEARCA and SEAMEO RETRAC through the Camosun College in Victoria, British Columbia. The University of British Columbia continued to support SEAMEO SEARCA’s Southeast Asian University Consortium for Graduate Education and Natural Resources.

Canada continued to sponsor the annual SEAMEO-Jasper Research Award that recognises Southeast Asian academics and researchers for their outstanding work on various education fields.

FRANCE

France supported the RELC-French Embassy Course for ASEAN Diplomats and the SEAMEO-France Speaking Competition implemented by SEAMEO RELC. France also provided aid to a regional consultation workshop on resources development related to disasters and emergencies conducted by the SEAMEO TROPMED Network.
GERMANY

Through the German Development Service (DED), Germany provided assistance to SEAMEO INNOTECH’s Project Apex in reviewing and enhancing the TechPrep curriculum in training teachers on specific technologies. Germany also supported SEAMEO SEARCA’s graduate scholarships through the German Academic Exchange Program (DAAD).

For SEAMEO VOCTECH, Germany supported the centre’s research networking and capacity building programme for higher education institutions involved in vocational education in Southeast Asia.

THE NETHERLANDS

Through the Netherlands Ministry of Development Cooperation, the Netherlands provided support to SEAMEO SEARCA’s Philippines-Netherlands Biodiversity Research Programme and Development in Mindanao: Focus on Mt Malindang. The Centre’s Impact Evaluation on the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC)- Funded Projects in the Philippines also benefited from the assistance.

NEW ZEALAND

Through its collaboration with the University of Waikato, SEAMEO RETRAC received support from New Zealand.

NORWAY


SPAIN

Spain provided summer scholarships to Spanish teachers and instructors in Southeast Asia on Spanish language education and culture at the University of Granada.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS

SEAMEO SECRETARIAT
SEAMEO BIOTROP
SEAMEO CHAT
SEAMEO INNOTECH
SEAMEO RECSAM
SEAMEO RELC
SEAMEO RETRAC
SEAMEO RIHED
SEAMEO SEAMOLEC
SEAMEO SPAFA
SEAMEO TROPMED
SEAMEO VOCTECH
The SEAMEO Secretariat continued to coordinate the close collaboration between the SEAMEO Ministries of Education and the SEAMEO Regional Centres with their expanding number of partners in education in the region.

It saw landmark changes and sustained programmes in such significant issues as integration of ICT in education – which was high in policy discussions within the ministries, quality assurance in higher education, teaching in the mother tongue, science and mathematics education, regional identity, education for sustainable development and teacher training.

The Secretariat sustained its facilitating function with the SEAMEO Regional Centres’ implementation of the Human Values-Based Water Sanitation and Hygiene Education in Southeast Asian schools that integrates in teaching and learning materials a new water use ethic and encourages behavior change among young people in the region.

It also continued to coordinate with the ministries the Regional Forum on Quality and Equity in Education initiative to address issues on access and quality through improved learning and instruction.

His Excellency Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education of Singapore, completed his term as SEAMEO Council President in March 2006 and was succeeded by His Excellency Minister Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo, Minister of National Education of Indonesia.

The turnover of the Council Presidency was held during the 42nd SEAMEO Council Conference hosted by MONE, Indonesia in Bali, where Indonesia unveiled Jardiknas, the Indonesia National Education ICT Network and led the policy forum that took up ICT integration programmes of the ministries.

Through its partnership with the ASEAN Secretariat, the SEAMEO Secretariat coordinated the 2nd ASEAN Education Ministers Meeting in conjunction with the 42nd SEAMEO Council Conference. It also hosted luncheon briefings with the diplomatic corps in Bangkok to share the growing involvement of the Organization in various education initiatives in Southeast Asia.

The Secretariat continued to recognise excellence in research and journalism by giving the SEAMEO-Jasper Research Awards and the SEAMEO-Australia Press Awards, as well as the SEAMEO Service Awards for outstanding work exemplified by the staff of the SEAMEO Regional Centres.
Participants of ASEAN Training Program visit the nursery of Services Laboratory of SEAMEO BIOTROP
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Tropical Biology
Bogor, Indonesia

SEAMEO BIOTROP focuses on biotechnology, biodiversity and natural resources management. The centre assists SEAMEO Member Countries in developing the expertise to identify, prioritise, analyse and recommend solutions or alternative approaches to critical biological problems in the region, especially those related to sustainable development of tropical ecosystems.

The Centre currently offers linkage programme/networking in biodiversity information and conservation; biotechnology and environmental management; training programmes in the five thrusts of tropical biology: pest and disease management (invasive alien species and aflatoxin); biosystematics; natural products and waste management; water ecosystem and coastal zone, and biotechnology and postgraduate programme in Information Technology for Natural Resources Management (MIT), a collaboration between Bogor Agricultural University (IPB) and SEAMEO BIOTROP.

During fiscal year 2006-2007, SEAMEO BIOTROP conducted 48 researches, 35 training courses, 65 seminars, two workshops, and information dissemination activities including publications. In addition to the existing network, networking and cooperation were enhanced via the establishment of RCE Bogor (Regional Centre of Expertise) under the United Nations University network that concerns with Education for Sustainable Development, where SEAMEO BIOTROP acts as the host institute of RCE Bogor.

SEAMEO BIOTROP introduced a number of initiatives to support education for sustainable development which was the Centre’s contribution to RCE activities in preserving the environment which is relevant to its new mission. These initiatives included researches and seminars focusing on biofuel and issues on greenhouse gases; teachers and community training on organic farming and waste management; and the on-going development of the Bogor Science Park located at the Centre to encourage students to develop more interest in science.

In terms of management, measures were undertaken that included maintenance of ISO 17025, monitoring and evaluation of staff performance, financial auditing, and the use of ICT to support management system.
Participants in the annual training programme, Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives, study stone inscriptions in Bagan
SEAMEO Regional Centre for History and Tradition  
Yangon, Myanmar

The programmes and activities that SEAMEO CHAT accomplished in fiscal year 2006-2007 were the research project on “The Legal Traditions of Southeast Asia” and publication of the book entitled “Legal Traditions of Southeast Asia”, which covered the legal traditions of Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam.

SEAMEO CHAT also conducted the annual training programme “Myanmar History from Myanmar Perspectives” in June 2007, which included lectures, museum visits and field studies at the historical sites of Bago, Bagan, Mandalay and Pyay. The Centre continued with its Community Involvement Programme that included the provision of English training to upgrade skills of the teachers in the adopted school. The Centre also organized a lecture on “The Legacy of Myanmar Glazed Ceramic” given by Dr Myo Thant Tynn of the Myanmar Academy of Arts and Science in May 2007.

The Fifth Governing Board Meeting of the Centre was held from 25 to 26 September 2006. Daw Myint Myint Ohn, International Relations Officer of the Centre, was selected as the recipient of the SEAMEO Service Award.

SEAMEO CHAT continued with the marketing and promotion of its activities through brochures, website updating, distribution of publications and participation in public and professional events.
The enhanced IMPACT system makes use of technology-supported peer learning to address the lack of teachers in many rural schools.
Fiscal year 2006-2007 at SEAMEO INNOTECH was capped by the Centre’s 10th International Conference, asking how secondary education could be a better stepping stone to higher education or a career. This focus swept across activities throughout the year.

The Centre continued to assist local governments in fulfilling requirements for academically and technically prepared workers to support the agriculture, business, and industry sectors. The SEAMEO Education Development Fund made it possible for scholars from member countries to upgrade their competencies in creating supportive learning environments in secondary education.

Backing up the Philippine Department of Education, the Centre was involved in profiling technical-vocational high schools in the Philippines and reviewing tech-voc competency standards for reforms that would provide useful job skills to high school students. The broad picture was provided by a SEAMEO INNOTECH study on problems associated with access and demand in secondary education.

Education for international understanding was promoted through the development of a self-learning module for school heads on peace education. To support the peace thrust, SEAMEO INNOTECH completed the development of instructional materials for Islamic schools and wrapped up, at the policy level, studies on access to basic education of Muslim learners and enhancing learning pathways for the Madrasah education system. In Southern Philippines, a renewed partnership with the Education Development Center is trying to improve basic education quality and access. The Centre’s upgraded IMPACT system had also been used in this area as an alternative delivery mode to basic formal education.

Courses on educational management and leadership were conducted on a flexible, on-line platform and linked with degree-granting teacher education institutions. To help school heads in their leadership roles, the Centre mounted programmes on personal effectiveness as well as shared governance for those who are part of on-going decentralisation efforts.

On its second year as an ISO-certified organisation, SEAMEO INNOTECH initiated steps to transform professional and organisational life in the Centre through the appreciative inquiry approach. The approach is an affirmation of its people as its greatest resource and expands creative ways of involving the staff in development planning by capitalising on their strengths and successes.
Participants from Uganda visit the Penang Free School
For the Fiscal Year in review, SEAMEO RECSAM recorded an increase in the development and offering of customised courses that provided tremendous benefit to educators from Southeast Asia, as well as Kenya and Uganda. The regular courses in science and mathematics education were conducted with participation from both SEAMEO Member Countries and Non Member Countries. In-country courses were conducted for Indonesian and Thai educators.

Regional training workshops and seminars were organised during this period. In collaboration with the French Academy of Sciences, the “La main à la pâte (LAMAP)” workshop for 24 participating SEAMEO science educators was conducted. The workshop provided necessary tools for Science educators to skillfully impart knowledge in nurturing children through inquiry-based science education.

SEAMEO RECSAM hosted the Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on the “Integration of Human Values on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) in Southeast Asian Schools” sponsored by the UN-HABITAT. In line with the aspiration to promote SEAMEO to the global market, seek wider collaboration, and attract more partnerships, SEAMEO RECSAM took the initiative to hold the SEAMEO Marketing Workshop 2007, themed “Capacity Building on Marketing and Communications of SEAMEO Units” that had the support and participation from all sister centres.

In research and development, the SEAMEO RECSAM carried out an impact study to evaluate the Centre's programmes. Evaluation was also undertaken to assess the SEAMEO Marketing Workshop.

While moving forward as a Centre of Excellence, SEAMEO RECSAM ensured that both academic and support staff are continuously well abreast with current trends towards diverse self-enhancement. All academic staff were provided with opportunities to improve their skills in numerous programmes, both local and international. The Centre also conducted courses for its staff such as an English course for support staff and a First-Aid and CPR course for both professional and support staff in coordination with the Malaysian Red Crescent Society.
H E Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo delivers an opening address in a seminar at SEAMEO RELC.
SEAMEO Regional Language Centre  
_Singapore_

SEAMEO RELC continued to run teacher development courses with scholarships offered to participants nominated by SEAMEO Member Countries in Singapore as well as the Postgraduate Diploma in TESOL and the Master of Arts in TESOL by Distance in Vietnam. The Centre also worked with the Ministries of Education in Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand to provide a series of courses designed to meet the particular needs of the language teachers in their education systems.

In addition, the Centre ran language proficiency courses for students and government officials. Two modules on “Extending Communicative Proficiency” at ‘O’ level were conducted for Singapore students during the June holidays. From March 2007, the Centre offered a new English language programme for international students, which was developed in 2006. The course consisted of two parts. Part 1 focused on upgrading the students’ proficiency in General English, taking students from beginner to intermediate level while part 2 trained the students in English for Academic Purposes.

The SEAMEO Regional Schools Internet Project in 2006 involved sixteen schools from six Member Countries producing online magazines on the theme “Youth and Environmental Issues” while more than a hundred participants from nine Member Countries and two Associate Member countries participated in the Virtual Forum for Language Teachers.

Twenty participants from ten Member Countries took part in the French-Speaking Competition supported by France.

The RELC International Seminar in April 2007 was opened by His Excellency, Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo, Minister of National Education, Ministry of National Education, Indonesia, and President of the SEAMEO Council.
Grant Signing Ceremony on Vietnam - Belgium Training Facility Project
SEAMEO Regional Training Centre
Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

SEAMEO RETRAC continued to offer training workshops, seminars and conferences on educational management with focus on effective school leadership, higher education administration and accreditation, organisational behaviour, financial management, instructional management, teacher and student assessment, and school and programme evaluation.

Furthermore, there were four special courses funded by the Belgian government for disadvantaged areas in Vietnam. In all, nearly 1,300 participants joined these programmes, including those from the region and other parts of the world. This year also witnessed for the first time the delivery of in-country training to Lao PDR and Cambodia. In addition, other training programmes were held in English training, ICT, e-commerce, and teaching and learning strategies.

The Centre continued to conduct such research projects as the LEARNTECH eXCELS with SEAMEO INNOTECH; Transforming Schools into Learning Centres with Ho Chi Minh City Department of Education and Training; the Teachers Enabled Learning System Online Project (TELSO) funded by the New Zealand government, and Identifying Training Needs in Educational Management for Lao PDR and Cambodia.

SEAMEO RETRAC expanded activities in overseas studies and education fairs with the participation of over 1,300 students. Faculty and student exchange was also enhanced to have a greater number of students going out to study in different countries, and attracted experts, specialists and nationals from the region and the wider world to join the teaching and research teams of the Centre. Apart from that, SEAMEO RETRAC also organised two study visits to the United States for Vietnamese university administrators.

The past year also witnessed another successful year at SEAMEO RETRAC in developing inter-centre cooperation and international partnership, especially the joint programmes with such sister centers as SEAMEO RELC and SEAMEO INNOTECH.

Income-generating activities were also strengthened especially in the field of English teaching and learning, thus responding to the community needs, enhancing the centre’s image and reputation, and creating a surplus of income to serve the multi-faceted growth of the centre, particularly in facility upgrading and staff development.
“The Second Educational Visit to the United Kingdom for Senior Staff from Universities in Thailand” was co-organised by the International Training, Research and Education Consortium (InTREC) during 22-26 May 2007. The programme offered participants with the opportunity to learn about the development of policy and practice in university management in UK’s leading universities.
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development  
Bangkok, Thailand

SEAMEO RIHED is specialising in regional cooperation on higher education development. The Centre’s objectives are to foster efficiency and effectiveness of higher education in Southeast Asian Member Countries through research-oriented activities and professional training. It also serves as the regional centre and a clearing-house for the exchange and dissemination of information and research findings on higher education planning and management.

For the fiscal year 2006/2007, SEAMEO RIHED still focused on research and training in regional and sub-regional higher education management. Its accomplishments included the following: “A Study on Higher Education Innovation”; the annual training programme on “Regional Workshop on Institutional Restructuring in Higher Education in Asia”; the annual “Educational Programme to the United Kingdom for Senior Staff from Universities in Thailand”; two regional seminars on “Quality Assurance in Higher Education in Southeast Asian Countries” and “Higher Education Innovation.”

SEAMEO RIHED also distributed three issues of the SEAMEO RIHED Bulletin, and provided the access to higher education information and activities through the SEAMEO RIHED’s website (www.rihed.seameo.org) and e-Library system.

For the FY 2007/2008 regular activities, the Centre will focus more on research-driven activities in the area of strategic planning and university governance. At the policy level, the Centre has been investing a great deal of effort in raising the awareness among policy makers and high-ranking officials responsible for higher education on the importance of regional integration in higher education in this Southeast Asia. SEAMEO RIHED’s long-term vision is to become the prime mover in pushing forward the policy initiative leading to the establishment of a common higher education space or a higher education area in this region.

As partner in higher education, SEAMEO RIHED keeps its commitment to strive for the betterment of higher education in Southeast Asia.
HE Mr Tharman Shanmugaratman, Minister for Education of Singapore visits SEAMEO SEAMOLEC in December 2006.
SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre
Jakarta, Indonesia

In 2007, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC proudly acknowledged its 10 years of providing services to Southeast Asian countries in open and distance learning (ODL). Such intensive developments have driven SEAMEO SEAMOLEC to strive for capability in providing higher quality and professional services to assist clients to answer emerging challenges.

The construction of SEAMEO SEAMOLEC’s new building during the year has been one major milestone in the Centre’s growth. It is one key strategy taken by SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, supported by the Government of Indonesia, in offering quality services. The new building, located in the compound of Universitas Terbuka, provides a better space for the three-storey office. The new building houses training rooms, a teleconference room, a computer lab, and a small library. The staff started working in the new building since 1 June 2007.

SEAMEO SEAMOLEC’s three major activities were the development of the SEAMEO Resource Package on HVWSHE under the auspices of the SEAMEO–UN HABITAT project involving SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, SEAMEO INNOTECH and SEAMEO RECSAM; Alternative Curriculum Development coordinated by SEAMEO SEAMOLEC and funded by the Deutsche Bank, and the development of a consortium of 23 teacher colleges to implement ODL employing hybrid model for in-service teacher education in Indonesia under the Directorate General of Higher Education and Directorate General of Quality Improvement for Teachers of the Ministry of National Education, Indonesia.

Several other routine activities were carried out such as collaboration with partners, extensive studies on many aspects of ODL and ICT in education, continuous improvement of services and products, the development of staff and management system. These are building blocks in SEAMEO SEAMOLEC’s journey. Finally, visits from a number of sister Centre Directors, ODL and e-learning experts, and SEAMEO leaders have also provided insightful information for SEAMEO SEAMOLEC’s growth.
Dr Arsenio M Balisacan, SEAMEO SEARCA Director shakes hands with Dr Denise Konan, Interim Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) after the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding which binds SEAMEO SEARCA and the UHM to cooperate in the areas of sustainability science, risk management, and disaster management.
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture
Los Baños, Philippines

SEAMEO SEARCA turned 40 years old in November 2006. As it entered a new chapter in its life, the Center continued to contribute to the global efforts toward poverty reduction and food security through its core programmes on graduate scholarship, short-term training, research and development, and knowledge exchange. These are intended to address concerns in agricultural competitiveness and natural resource management, for the ultimate aim of helping reduce poverty and food insecurity.

In fiscal year 2006/2007, SEAMEO SEARCA, in collaboration with partners particularly the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), awarded 47 new graduate scholarships and saw the completion of 16 scholars. As of 30 June 2007, SEAMEO SEARCA has awarded 1,196 scholarships, of which 1,000 (575 MS, 425 PhDs) had been successfully completed. Moreover, nine scholars under the Academic Bridging Programme completed a one-year diploma programme this year. On the other hand, the SEAMEO SEARCA-initiated Southeast Asian University Consortium was strengthened with the acceptance of Tokyo University of Agriculture in Japan as an associate member. The Consortium now counts nine members from Australia, Canada, Germany, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand.

In support of its capacity-building goals, SEAMEO SEARCA awarded nine PhD research grants, seven professorial chair grants, and 11 travel grants (for paper presentations in conferences) in FY 2006/2007.

The Center also conducted two short-term courses on natural resource management, 49 seminars and roundtables, and two international conferences entitled “Regional Experts’ Consultation Meeting on Overcoming Obstacles to Agricultural Microfinance in Southeast Asia” and “Poverty Reduction through Sustainable Fisheries: Emerging Policy and Governance Issues in Southeast Asia”. The participants came from 15 countries. Among their outputs were policy recommendations and a regional microfinance network.

During the year, SEAMEO SEARCA implemented 16 research projects/studies, which included nine grants under the Seed Fund for Research and Training. It likewise turned out 18 publications, which included a book on rice policy, two primers on agriculture and development, and a journal. Moreover, the Biotechnology Information Center conducted nine seminars/workshops on general and technical updates on biotechnology, biosafety regulations, risk assessment for food and environmental safety, and risk communication.

SEAMEO SEARCA pursued effective dealings with partners and forged collaborations by entering into 18 agreements with international and Philippine organisations. It had 51 active partners during the year. It continued to receive full support from the Philippines, SEAMEO SEARCA’s host government.

In the face of rapid shifts occurring in the region, SEAMEO SEARCA strives harder to be responsive to global developments and emerging regional concerns. The Center is determined to keep its focus on policies and support systems and institutional development especially with regards sustainable land and water management, biodiversity conservation, biotechnology, and climate change.
Dr Pisit Charoenwongsa, SEAMEO SPAFA Director gives an on-site lecture
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts
Bangkok, Thailand

Educating for Sustainable Development through Cultural Resources Management

With the office of National Buddhism of Thailand, SEAMEO SPAFA engaged in the design of an interpretative museum of Buddhism. Monthly museum forums were also held throughout the year to discuss topical issues and have, to date, attracted over 600 participants.

Research was undertaken and published on a range of topics including Thai-Dutch history, current trends in Southeast Asian Cinema, the Archaeology of Early Harbours and Evidence for Inter-regional Trade, and on Culture and Development in Southeast Asia.

On-site workshops were conducted on Making a Mangrove an Eco-Museum, as well as, a CollAsia 2010 field project on Teamwork for Sustainable Collections Care in cooperation with ICCROM.

SEAMEO SPAFA also continued its community outreach programming with awareness raising activities of local heritage in Phrae, Thailand.
Participants in the Epidemiology and Research in Public Health Surveillance workshop at the College of Public Health, University of the Philippines, Manila, 26 February to 2 March 2007
Fiscal Year 2006-2007 marked the 40th year of the establishment of the SEAMEO TROPMED Network. It was a time for reflection and review of the activities of the Network and a celebration with friends, colleagues, and partners.

For this reporting period, the Network continued to pursue its mission through its various training, research, technical services, consultancy activities and special projects. A total of 21 health professionals from the region received scholarships coordinated by the Network to participate in the degree programmes of the four SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centres.

In addition, 30 short training courses were organised by the Centres for health and health related professionals. These short courses focused on developing competencies in the areas of border health; risk communication; epidemiology in disasters and public health emergencies; geographic information system; health management; food safety education; leadership; nutritional anthropology; surgical skills; care and management of laboratory animals; taxonomy of mosquito vectors; malaria; standards, ethics, tools and procedures of good clinical practice; dental public health; medical records management; legal basis in the practice of health profession; diagnostic mycology; course for water filling stations; occupational health and safety; health promotion; global infectious disease; and tropical medicine.

The four Regional Centres have been involved in about 250 researches (completed and on-going). These are both basic and applied researches in biomedical, environmental, clinical, and social/behavioural fields. More than a hundred scientific papers have been published by all four Centres in national and international journals and almost the same number have been presented in international conferences and scientific meetings. Furthermore, the Network has organised national, regional and international conferences and research fora that were attended by professionals from the region and beyond.

Special projects have been implemented by the Network in the areas of integration of mental health in primary and secondary curriculum; disaster management; water and sanitation in the school setting; risk communication; data management; border health, travel medicine, and integrated medicine.

In 2006-2007, the Network published six issues of the Southeast Asian Journal of Tropical Medicine and Public health. The SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centres and the Network Office also produced several monographs, supplements, brochures and leaflets.

Linkages and networking were expanded that resulted to an increase in the number of collaborative training programmes and projects, researches, and exchange programmes with academic, development partners and international organisations. At the same time, the professionals of the Network continue to provide expert services to national, regional and international bodies in curriculum development and review; institutional and individual capacity building, programme evaluation; pilot testing, research and project proposal development, as well as in research activities. In addition, the SEAMEO TROPMED Regional Centres continue to serve as Collaborating Centres and Centre of Excellence in specific areas of concern.

To enhance quality of management, a new website was developed and physical structures and training facilities and equipments were improved in the Network.
Mr Mohammad Abu Bakar, SEAMEO VOCTECH Director (right) with HE Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Education, Singapore and the SEAMEO Council President during the Launching Ceremony of the Accredited ICT Programmes at the Centre on 27 January 2007
SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training
Brunei Darussalam

Thirty-four training programmes, (regular, in-country, sub-regional and special) in vocational and technical education and training were conducted to 825 senior administrators, lecturers and practitioners from Southeast Asia.

Specifically, these were curriculum, design and evaluation; management; research; teacher training; and information and communications technology. Through the courses as well as the Netherlands Government-funded project, known as SEAVERN, the knowledge and skills of participants were enhanced. This three-year project, (2007-2009), is research and networking-gearing and setting-up the Centre’s ICT infrastructure. The Tracer Study and Training Needs Assessment of Alumni, 2001/2002 to 2004/2005 were updated in terms of personal and professional data, knowledge and skills gained, training implementation and obstacles.

In playing a vital role towards “bridging the digital divide,” the Centre has been strategically engaged by government ministries and private institutions in Brunei Darussalam. An estimated of 264 MOE staff and personnel were trained on the customised Internet and Computing Core Certification (IC³) programme. The EC-Council: Security Training and Certification Programme was conducted for a particular local institution. Facilities reinforcement as a thrust was achieved by putting up the Creativity and Innovation Centre with MOE, equipped with Macintosh and Dell Laptops, an interactive white board and other learning peripherals.

Expanding information dissemination not only through print and digital publications but online information services has enhanced communication processes with the Centre’s course participants and other relevant stakeholders. The EDUNET, a learning management system and the Online Journal System afforded access to the Centre’s courses, materials, and an alumni database.

Maintaining certification of its ISO 9001:2000, SEAMEO VOCTECH aimed itself towards continuous improvement schemes and moving forward to face global challenges. Integrating corrective measures were upheld alongside a quality management system of its training programmes as evidenced in the last 5th Surveillance Audit in mid-June 2007.

Active involvement of the Centre’s leaders/management staff in conferences and meetings has strengthened existing partnerships and spawned new linkages with SEAMEO Centres on various areas, namely staff exchange programmes, the Vocational Education Development Centre in Malang, Indonesia on a sub-regional training course, the Colombo Plan Staff College on an ICT training programme in May 2008, the Korean Research and Innovation on Vocational Education and Technology (KRIVET) research-focused training programmes to commence in 2008 and other Asian projects which are in the pipeline.

SEAMEO VOCTECH continues to strive for more empowered VTET professionals for the 21st century.