Minister of Education Visits SEAMEO Member Countries

Bandar Seri Begawan - As the 46th President of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation Council (SEAMEC), the Minister of Education, Pehin Orang Kaya Seri Kerna Dato Seri Setia (Dr) Haji Awg Abu Bakar bin Haji Apong, continued to make his working visit to Cambodia and Lao PDR.

The visit in Cambodia started with the minister making a courtesy call on Im Sethy, the Minister of Education, Youth and Sports, Cambodia. The two ministers exchanged views on various matters related to SEAMEO as well as the bilateral relationship and cooperation in education.

Im Sethy expressed his appreciation to the minister for his great leadership during his two-year term as the SEAMEO Council President. In response, the Minister of Education thanked the Cambodian minister for his contribution and sharing of experience, particularly being the longest-serving member of the SEAMEO Council.

From Cambodia, the minister proceeded to Lao PDR and paid a courtesy call on Dr Phankham Viphavanh, the Minister of Education and Sports of Lao PDR.

As the President of the SEAMEO Council, the minister shared his observations from his recent visit to various SEAMEO Regional Centres and reiterated to his counterparts to fully utilise the expertise and resources of these centres for their human resource development.

The minister expressed his gratitude to the Cambodia and Lao PDR governments for their support to the SEAMEO Regional Centres, which has enabled these centres to develop into centres of excellence in their fields of competency not only in the region but also globally.

The minister also expressed his hope for such SEAMEO Regional Centres to be set up in Cambodia and Lao PDR so that all SEAMEO member countries will have their own regional centres in the future.

As the President of the SEAMEO Council, the minister extended the invitation to his counterparts to the upcoming 47th SEAMEO Council Conference scheduled to be held in March 2013 in Hanoi, Vietnam. The minister looks forward to the ministerial round table meeting as an avenue to discuss forward-looking agenda on regional issues for SEAMEO to pursue. On bilateral issues, the ministers shared on the reforms in the education system in their respective countries.

Among others, the Minister of Education shared the SPN21 education system, Discovery Year programme for third-year university students and the School Leadership Programme (SLP) for school leaders from the region conducted by Universiti Brunei Darussalam. The courtesy calls concluded with the exchange of tokens of appreciation.