



# SEAMEO RETRAC

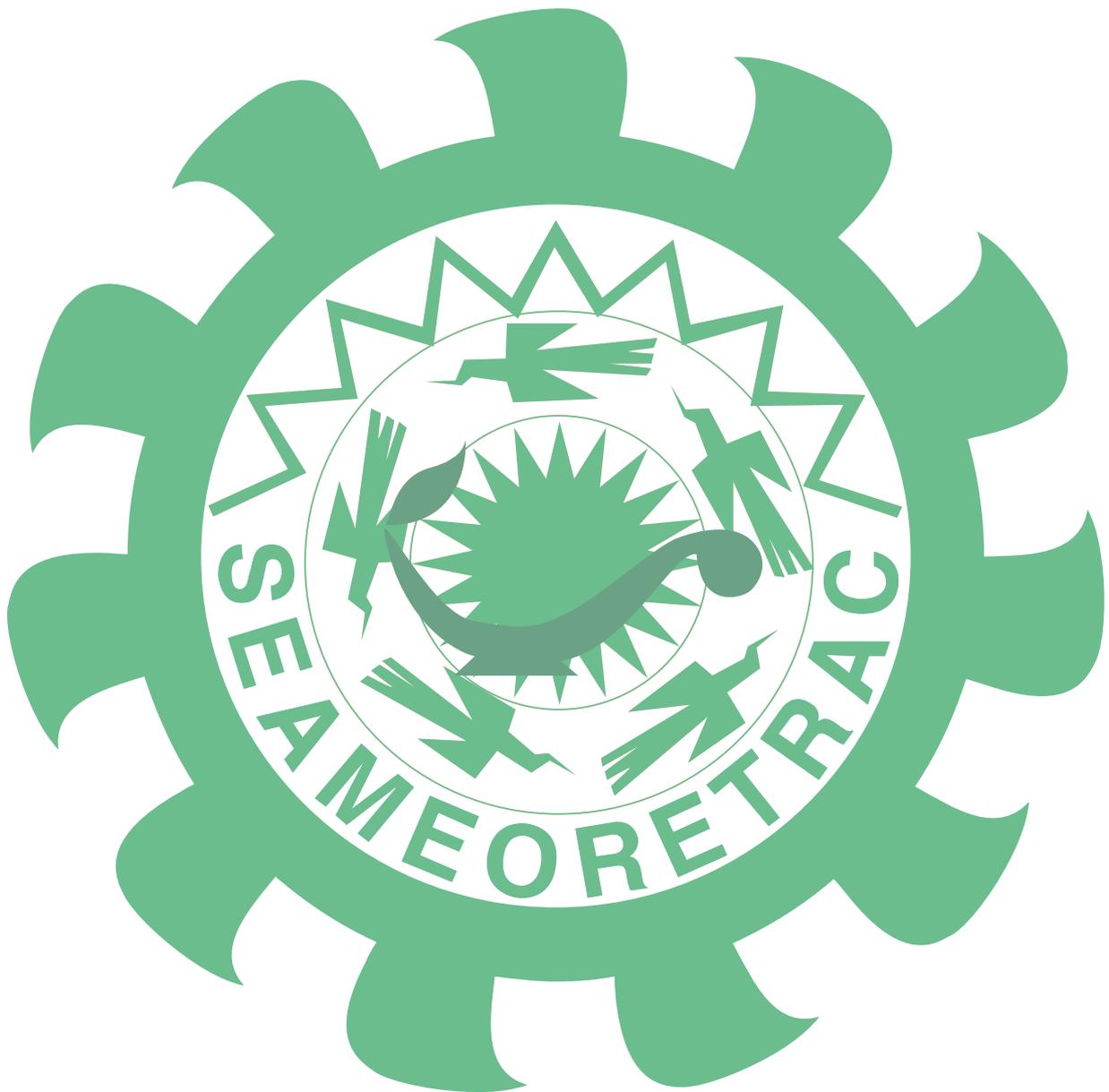
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NEWS LETTER

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## 46th SEAMEO Council Conference in Juradong, Brunei Darussalam



The Annual 46th Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Council Conference was held from January 26–29, 2011, at the Empire, Juradong, Brunei Darussalam. Attending the conference were more than 200

delegates who are Ministers of Education, High Officials from SEAMEO member countries, affiliate members and international organizations. The delegation from Vietnam joining this event was led by Minister of Education and Training Pham Vu Luan.

The Conference included the launch of the Ministerial Round-table Meeting, conduct of a policy forum on the theme "Transformation in Technical Vocational Education", plenary sessions, in-camera session and bilateral meetings. Among



others, important resolutions of the SEAMEO Council included the adoption of SEAMEO strategic plans for the next 10 years (2011-2020), approval of the proposal on the establishment of the SEAMEO Regional Center for Lifelong Learning in Vietnam, acceleration of progress in providing quality Education for All (EFA) in Southeast Asia, and the approval of the 3rd five-year Development Plan of SEAMEO RETRAC.

On this occasion, Ms. Trinh Thi Hoa My, a senior staff of SEAMEO RETRAC, was presented the SEAMEO Service Award. This is an annual recognition and appreciation to staff members of SEAMEO Units who demonstrate exceptionally high levels of achievement in work performance, innovation and creativity, professionalism and commitment to the success of the Organization's mission and goals.



## Deputy Minister Bui Van Ga's Visit to SEAMEO RETRAC



On March 30, 2011, Deputy Minister Bui Van Ga paid a visit to SEAMEO RETRAC. He congratulated on the Center's work for Vietnam as well as for the region. He also suggested the Center be actively involved in becoming an accreditation agency

for higher and vocational/technical education in Vietnam; collaborating with foreign institutions in offering quality Master's and doctoral programs in educational management, Applied Linguistics with an emphasis on TESOL and ICT; expanding educational leadership and management training for educators in Vietnam and the region and other national projects.

## Opening Ceremony of English Pre-departure Program for the Government Scholarship Recipients - Project 322

60 government scholarship recipients attended the opening ceremony of the pre-departure intensive program at SEAMEO RETRAC on April 04, 2011. The program aims to help the participants improve their iBT-TOEFL or IELTS scores to meet the requirement for their overseas study and to develop academic as well as life skills. It also helps familiarize them with essential socio-cultural knowledge about living in a foreign country. The orientation will help candidates choose the most appropriate program and university for his/her overseas study, and know how to apply for an entry visa. The program includes 300 hours of in-class instruction and 150 hours of guided self-study and lasts for fifteen weeks from April 04 to July 29, 2011.



## Training Workshop for Kiddy Teachers

SEAMEO RETRAC organized a training workshop on teaching methodology for Kiddy teachers on April 18, 2011. At the workshop, Ms. Jessica Finnis, a TESOL expert from Oxford University Press, demonstrated fun games and activities to teach vocabulary and structures in Let's Go series. In addition, the teachers were introduced new techniques to teach Reading and Writing skills for teenagers using American Adventures series more effectively.

## Training Workshop on Supertots Teaching Techniques

On March 25, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC, in cooperation with Longman Pearson Education, organized a training



workshop on how to use SuperTots series effectively with the participation of 25 expatriate and Vietnamese instructors currently teaching at the Center. At the workshop, Ms. Ronnie Hill, a specialist from Longman Pearson, conducted classroom demonstrations to illustrate the teaching and learning activities using Supertots. The workshop provided the teachers with new experiences and practical hints to teach Supertots more fruitfully.

## Visit of the SEARCA Delegation

Followed by the Cross Culture Visit Program known as "Summer Outing Getaway 2011", the Southeast Asian Regional Center for Graduate Study and Research in Agriculture (SEARCA) paid a visit to RETRAC on March 23, 2011. On this occasion, two sister centers

have discussed collaborative possibilities in terms of training and learning activities, especially



the Leadership Excellence in Academic Program for Southeast Asia (LEAP SEA).

## Roundtable on Plagiarism



On March 18, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted the Roundtable on Plagiarism. Presenting at the event were 4 local and international speakers and 50 researchers, lecturers and graduate students from various institutions in Vietnam. The event aimed at idea and experience sharing on various types of plagiarism in education and research, and possible ways of preventing/avoiding in writing papers.

## Excellence for Leaders of Vietnamese High Schools



On March 13, 2011, a closing ceremony was held for the training course on “Excellence for Leaders of Vietnamese High Schools” (March 7-15), with the participation of 30 high school principals and vice principals from disadvantaged provinces in Vietnam. This last training course along with the three previous ones were funded by Belgian Technical Corporation (BTC) for 2010 and 2011. Altogether, there were 120 high school principals joining these courses. The project aimed at enhancing leadership and management knowledge and skills for Vietnamese high school leaders with an emphasis on those who are female, working in the remote areas or from ethnic minorities. In addition to the on-site training, participants were also requested to attend a 4-week online training which provided them with more knowledge and self-study skills in the field of education, and especially helped promote lifelong learning.

## Study Trip of Students of Le Ngoc Han Primary School to Singapore

SEAMEO RETRAC organized the study trip for a group of 58 students of Le Ngoc Han Primary School, Ho Chi Minh City, to Singapore from March 7–11, 2011. Students were grouped in different classes to join both indoor and outdoor activities with students from Kong Hwa School and Kanji Primary School. The study trip was successful, especially helping students gain first-hand experiences about the diverse cultures, languages and society of Singapore, making friends with Singaporean students and expanding the staff and student exchange.



## Training Workshop on Top Notch Teaching Techniques

On March 21, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC, in cooperation with Longman Pearson Education, organized a training workshop on how to use Top Notch series effectively with the participation of 30 expatriate and Vietnamese instructors currently teaching at the Center. At the workshop, Ms. Paula Hanna, a specialist from Longman Pearson, conducted classroom demonstrations to illustrate the teaching and learning activities using Top Notch. The workshop provided the teachers with new experiences and practical hints to teach communicative as well as writing classes. Top Notch series have been used as core teaching materials for General English at SEAMEO since March 2010.



## MOU Signing Ceremony with Hue University College of Foreign Languages

On March 09, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC signed an MOU with the College of Foreign Languages, Hue University, at the Center. In attendance were leaders and senior staff of the two institutions. The MOU will pave the way for joint activities in training, research, student and faculty exchange, and co-hosting of conferences.



## Conference on Going Global V, Hong Kong

At the invitation of British Council, Dr. Do Huy Think visited Hong Kong to attend Going Global 5 from March 9-12, 2011. Also invited was senior officials of MOET and top administrators of some universities and colleges in Vietnam. At the conference, besides joining interesting sessions, Dr. Think presented "Institutional differentiation and the roles of vocational/technical colleges in Vietnam" in a panel discussion. The event was also a good opportunity to expand cooperation and partnership.



## Attending the 3<sup>rd</sup> Workshop on “University Self-assessment System for Asean/Southeast Asia”

Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Deputy Director of Training and Research participated in the 3<sup>rd</sup> workshop on “University Self-assessment System for ASEAN/Southeast Asia (USASAS)” in Penang, Malaysia on February 26-27, 2011. The purpose of the workshop was to consolidate the assessment framework used for self-assessment in the pilot study at universities in the region including Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Canada–Vietnam International Mobility and Partnership Forum

On March 1, 2011, the Canada-Vietnam International Mobility and Partnership Forum were jointly held by SEAMEO RETRAC, the Canadian Association of Community Colleges (CACC) and the Vietnamese Association of Community Colleges (VACC), attracting representatives from 15 Vietnamese colleges and 7 Canadian colleges. The Consul General of Canada, Mr. Audri Tushar Mukhopadhyay, were also present and had opening remarks. The forum aimed at strengthening the partnership between CACC and VACC through productive activities including promoting mobility of students, faculty and administrators among the two systems.

## Workshop on Analysis of Cross-border Higher Education for Regional Integration and Labor Market in East Asia



Dr. Do Huy Thinh attended the workshop co-organized by JICA and SEAMEO RIHED at Pathumwan Princess Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand from February 22-24, 2011. The workshop reported some research findings in the 300 leading universities and 1,000 joint programs in ASEAN+5 (Australia, China, Japan, Korea, and New Zealand) as well as opinion and experience exchange in cross-border higher education in the East Asia region.

## Study Field Trip by the Bangladeshi Delegation

From February 16-24, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC conducted a study field trip for 14 Bangladeshi high officials, headed by Mr. Md Ebadot Ali, Physical Infrastructure Division, Planning Commission. The purpose of this trip was to understand how the water supply system in Vietnam operates and how the treatment of waste water is executed. The delegation was arranged to visit water-related institutions from various provinces in Vietnam. They enjoyed the visits and hoped to spend longer visits in the future.



## APEC-TSUKUBA International Conference V



At the invitation of Tsukuba University, Dr. Dang Van Hung, SEAMEO RETRAC Deputy Director, and Mr. Truong Bao Duy, Program Coordinator, attended APEC-Tsukuba International Conference V in Japan from February 15-20, 2011. This conference aimed to study innovations in Lesson Study plans in Mathematics & apply ICT in teaching and learning. The visit helps pave the way for the lesson study project in Vietnam and strengthen the partnership between the two institutions in the future.

## Upcoming Events



- » Training Course on "Developing e-Learning Materials", May 09-13, 2011
- » Training Workshops on "Math Lesson Study and D-Books", May 12-14, 2011
- » International Conference on "Innovation in Teaching, Research, and Management in Higher Education", July 14-15, 2011
- » SEAMEO RETRAC 14th Governing Board Meeting, August 10-11, 2011
- » Roundtable Discussion on Educational Leadership and Management Training for Trainers, August 10, 2011
- » SEAMEO RETRAC 15th Anniversary, August 10, 2011