



# SEAMEO RETRAC

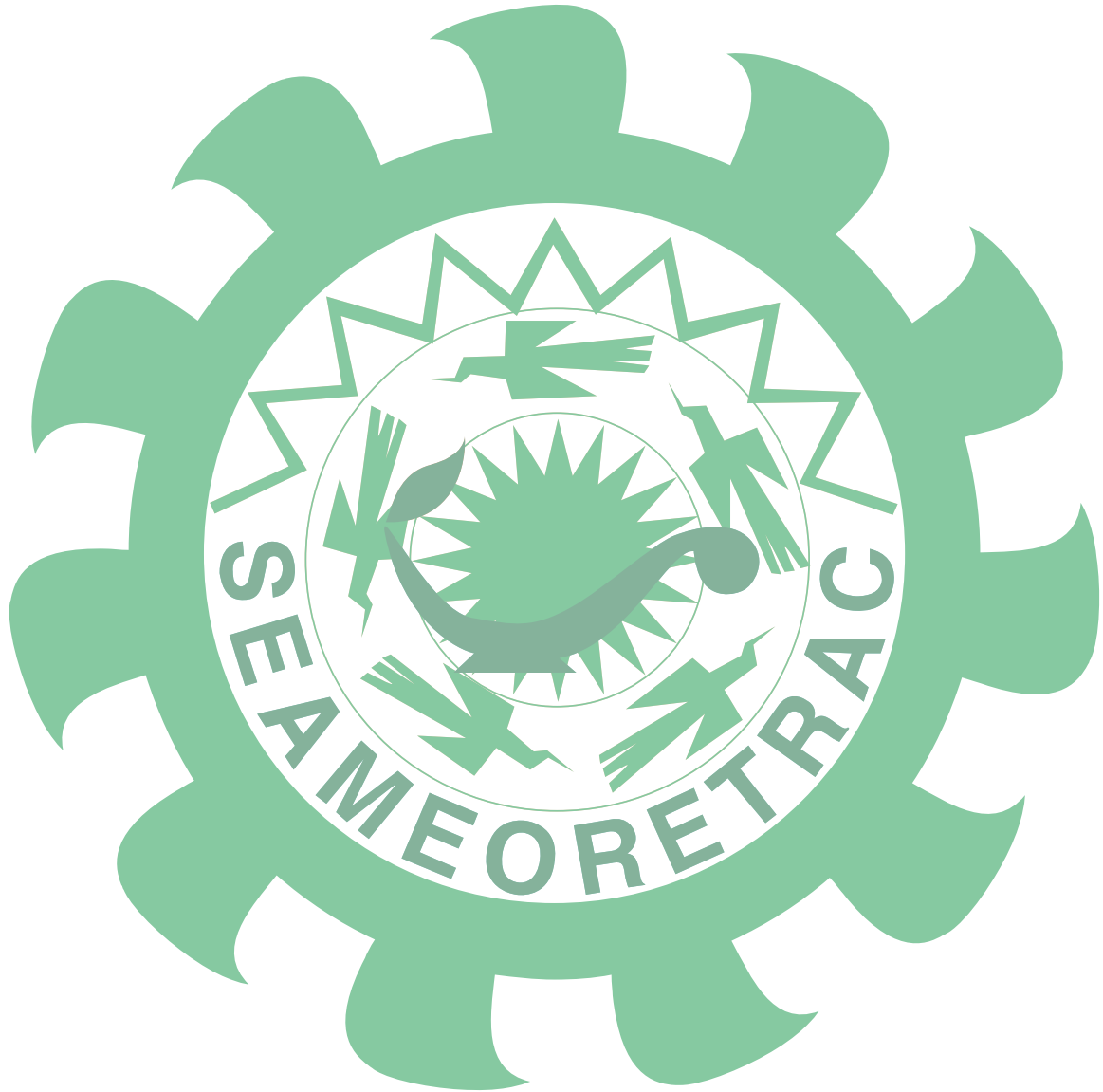
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NEWS LETTER

## IN THIS ISSUE



- ❖ 15th Anniversary
- ❖ Roundtable Forum on Educational Management and Leadership
- ❖ 14th Governing Board Meeting
- ❖ International Conference on Innovation in Teaching, Research and Management in Higher Education
- ❖ International TESOL Conference on "ENGLISH FOR ALL"
- ❖ U.S. Alumni Conference on "Making a Contribution in Vietnam"
- ❖ Graduation Ceremony of MA - Applied Linguistics Program - Intake 06 & Intake 07 (2010 – 2011)
- ❖ UK Education Conference
- ❖ Training Workshop on Effective Uses of Technology for Foreign Language Teaching
- ❖ Training Workshop on Pedagogical Strategies, Innovation and Technology for Teaching EFL/EIL Writing
- ❖ Study Trip of Le Quy Don High School Teachers and Students to IPC
- ❖ Upcoming Events

## 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



August 10, 2011, witnessed SEAMEO RETRAC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Ceremony at Rex Hotel. This anniversary was followed by the Center's 14th Governing Board Meeting and the Roundtable Forum on Educational Leadership and Management. In attendance

were H.E. President Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, SEAMEO Council, cum Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam; H.E. Prof. Dr. Pham Vu Luan, Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; H.E. Mr. Lytou Bouapao, Vice Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR; Mr. Hua Ngoc Thuan, Vice Chairman, People's Committee of

Ho Chi Minh City; Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director, SEAMEO Secretariat; Prof. Dr. Tran Hong Quan, former Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; Prof. Dr. Pham Minh Hac, former First Vice Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; Prof. Dr.



Nguyen Minh Hien, former Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; Prof. Dr. Nguyen Tan Phat, former Vice Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; Dr. Dang Huynh Mai, former Vice Minister of Education and Training, Vietnam; Mr. Tran Ba Viet Dzung, Director General, International Cooperation Department, Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training; and others from other sister SEAMEO centers (RECSAM and VOTECH), foreign partner institutions, representatives of diplomatic missions based in Ho Chi Minh City, local partners, the media and SEAMEO RETRAC staff.

The ceremony started with the welcome speech by Dr. Do Huy Thinh, which was followed by a summary of the activities over the past fifteen years. Next were the remarks made by H.E. President Pehin Abu Bakar Apong. The highlights of the Anniversary were the presentations of Vietnam's Prime Minister's Order of Labor Level 3 to SEAMEO RETRAC and Assoc. Prof. Dr. Do Huy Thinh by H.E. Minister Pham Vu Luan; the Medal of Royal Order of Monisaraphonto Cambodia by H.E. Madame Ton Sa Im, Undersecretary, Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Kingdom of Cambodia; and the Certificate of Appreciation by H.E. Mr. Lytou Bouapao, Vice Minister of Education and Sports, Lao PDR; to mark the contributions of the Center for the human resource development in Vietnam and the region.

On this occasion, H.E. Minister Pham Vu Luan presented the Orders for Educational Achievements to H.E. Mrs. Ton Sa Im, Governing Board member at SEAMEO RETRAC since 2004; Mrs. Maureen Ng, former SEAMEO RELC Director (2003-2006); and Mr. Khounmy Phommanimith, Deputy Director General, Department of Personnel and Organization, Ministry of Education, Lao PDR., SEAMEO RETRAC Governing Board member since 2004. These highest awards in education are to recognize their contributions in policy making, initiatives for implementation to the development of the Center, and the development of cooperation and partnership between Vietnam and their respective countries.



## Roundtable Forum on Educational Management and Leadership



On August 10, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC hosted the Educational Forum on Educational Leadership and Management back to back with its 14th Annual Governing Board Meeting. The forum aimed at presenting the current cases and lessons, sharing experiences and expertise in the field of training the trainers in educational leadership and management. The contents of the forum included educational leadership and management training for trainers, educational leadership and management in a globalized context, educational management training in Vietnam, and executive leadership in education: new approaches to developing change agents.

Presenters were Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat; Prof. Dr. Edilberto C de Jesus, President of Asian Institute of Management, the Philippines; Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Deputy Director of SEAMEO RETRAC; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Mark Robison, Director of Asia Pacific Rim International Study Experience, Rossier School of Education, University of Southern California; and Dr. Jonathan Shaw, Executive Director of AIT Extension, Asian Institute of Technology, Thailand. Nearly 50 participants from 11 countries attended the forum.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting

The 14<sup>th</sup> SEAMEO RETRAC Governing Board Meeting was convened from August 09-12, 2011 in Ho Chi Minh City and officiated by H.E. SEAMEO Council President Pehin Abu Bakar Apong, Minister of Education, Brunei Darussalam. The meeting was held back to back with the Roundtable Forum on Educational Management and Leadership and SEAMEO RETRAC 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.



Attending the meeting were members and representatives coming from eight Southeast Asian countries. In his opening remarks, the Council President congratulated on the Center's achievements for the past year, and encouraged its continued strong linkages with institutions and organizations galore within and outside the region. At the meeting, Dr. Dang Van Hung, SEAMEO RETRAC Deputy Director, presented a brief report on the main issues raised and approved at the Center Directors Meeting held in Bangkok, Thailand on July 05-07, 2011. Also, the Board approved the Center's annual report which was presented by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Do Huy Thinh, SEAMEO RETRAC Director, and the financial report FY 2010-2011 by Mr. Nguyen Tan Hung, Head of Bursar. The meeting ended with the agreement that SEAMEO RETRAC 15<sup>th</sup> Governing Board Meeting be convened in September of 2012.

## International Conference on Innovation in Teaching, Research and Management in Higher Education



SEAMEO RETRAC, July 14-15, 2011, hosted the International Conference on "Innovation in Teaching, Research and Management in Higher Education". The conference was held with the purpose of enhancing the knowledge and understanding of innovation in teaching, research and management in higher education. This conference was co-organized by the British Council and SEAMEO RETRAC. As many as 150 participants who are presidents, vice presidents, educators, researchers and practitioners from institutions in different parts of the world took part in the conference. A wide array of topics presented at the conference fell into four major subthemes: Innovations in Teaching and Learning Concentrating on Technology Application; Research and Development, their Impacts on the Management and the Training Quality in Higher Education; Reforms in Educational Management in Higher Education; and Quality Assurance and Governance Reform in Higher Education.

## International TESOL Conference on "ENGLISH FOR ALL"



Jointly conducted by SEAMEO RETRAC, HCMC-TESOL Association, Curtin University, and Hue University College of Foreign Languages, the International Conference on "ENGLISH FOR ALL" held on September 15-17, 2011, provided TESOL professionals an opportunity to share their new research findings and ideas in English teaching. More than 200 delegates from Vietnam and other countries attended the conference. Among distinguished speakers were Assoc. Prof. Rhonda Oliver, School of Education, Curtin University, Australia; Ms.

Linda Hanington, National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore; Prof. Dr. Mary Ellen Butler-Pascoe, Systemwide Director of TESOL and International Language Education, Alliant International University, USA; Dr. Nguyen Ngoc Hung, Ministry of Education and Training; Assoc. Prof. Koji Uenishi, Prof. Bradley Grindstaff, and Prof. Charles McHugh from Japan; Assoc. Prof. Dr. Phairin Rugsakorn, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Channarong Intaraprasert, and Dr. Kantatip Sinhaneti from Thailand; Ms. Helen Huntley, IIE Vietnam; Mr. Stuart Vinnie, Cambridge University Press, UK; and Ms. Ekaning Krisnawati, Adjadjaran University Bandung, Indonesia. There were 9 workshops and 36 papers presented at the conference, focusing on latest studies, teaching strategies and techniques obtained from their classroom contexts. In addition, networking sessions were initiated for institutions and individuals to connect with one another in an attempt to develop a TESOL community and expand post-event linkages.



## U.S. Alumni Conference on “Making a Contribution in Vietnam”



On October 14, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC and the U.S. Embassy and the US Consulate General co-organized the U.S. Alumni Conference on “Making a Contribution in Vietnam.” The event brought together over 100 Vietnamese participants of U.S. Government exchange programs as well as Vietnamese alumni of American institutions. At the conference, participants shared the opportunities and challenges faced since they came back to Vietnam. The conference helped optimize alumni networking and resources to make a contribution to the development of the country.

## Graduation Ceremony of MA - Applied Linguistics Program - Intake 06 & Intake 07 (2010 – 2011)

On September 13, 2011, the sixth and the seventh batches of students of the Master of Arts in Applied Linguistics Program, jointly provided by Curtin University and SEAMEO RETRAC, celebrated their achievements. Taking part in these intakes were 94 teachers of English from Vietnam and Indonesia. The program has so far recruited 360 candidates altogether. The eighth intake is now under way and expects to graduate in October 2012.



## UK Education Conference



At the invitation of British Council Vietnam, Assoc. Prof. Dr. Do Huy Thinh, SEAMEO RETRAC Director, presented “University Graduates and the Mismatch between Education and the Labor Market” at the Vietnam – UK Education Conference on October 17, 2011. The conference focused on how to increase employability for university graduates and strengthen the partnership between the two higher education systems.

## Training Workshop on Effective Uses of Technology for Foreign Language Teaching

Prof. Dr. Mary Ellen Butler-Pascoe, Systemwide Director of TESOL and International Language Education, Shirley M. Huffstedler School of Education, Alliant International University, San Diego, California conducted a training workshop on effective uses of technology for foreign language teaching at SEAMEO RETRAC on September 19, 2011. More than 90 expatriate and Vietnamese instructors of English participated in various activities of the workshop.



# Training Workshop on Pedagogical Strategies, Innovation and Technology for Teaching EFL/EIL Writing

On July 02, 2011, SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with TESOL-HCMC organized a training workshop on pedagogical strategies, innovation and technology for teaching EFL/EIL writing. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Lam Ly Tri, a special consultant and liaison for International Programs in Language Education and TESOL, Shirley M. Huffstедler School of Education, Alliant International University, San Diego, California. More than 40 expatriate and Vietnamese instructors currently teaching English in Ho Chi Minh City attended the training.



## Study Trip of Le Quy Don High School Teachers and Students to IPC

SEAMEO RETRAC in collaboration with IPC organized a study field trip for a group of 8 TESOL teachers and 31 students from Le Quy Don High School, Ho Chi Minh City, to New Zealand from June 23 to July 10, 2011. The trip was successful, especially helping participants to gain first-hand experiences about the diverse cultures, English teaching, international learning atmosphere at IPC, and expanding teacher and student exchange.



### Upcoming Events



- ❖ International Conference on the Social Value of Educational Technology in Southeast Asia: an Intellectual Exchange Conference for Japan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, and Vietnam, November 07-08, 2011
- ❖ Vietnamese Teachers' Day, November 20, 2011
- ❖ International Seminar on Teaching and Learning Mathematics and Science Subjects in English, December 02, 2011