

# SEAMEO RETRAC



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SEAMEO Regional Training Center

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**SOUTHEAST ASIAN MINISTERS OF EDUCATION ORGANIZATION  
REGIONAL TRAINING CENTER  
(SEAMEO RETRAC)  
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### SEAMEO RETRAC 24th Governing Board Meeting

SEAMEO RETRAC held its 24th Governing Board Meeting on September 28-29, 2021. The meeting was conducted virtually via the Zoom platform due to the social distancing policy resulting from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Attending the meeting were Governing Board Members of SEAMEO RETRAC from the Ministries of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, as well as

the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat and observers. The purpose of the meeting was to review the Center’s operations in fiscal year 2020/2021 and gather recommendations from Governing Board Members for the Center’s Action Plan for the next fiscal year 2021/2022. During the meeting, 10 Governing Board members and Director of SEAMEO Secretariat highly appreciated

the Center’s results and contributions over the past year; at the same time, give direction for the operation of the Center in the following years.



### Educational Forum on “Policies and Solutions to Ensure the Quality of Teaching and Learning at Basic Education in Southeast Asia in the COVID-19 Pandemic”

In the afternoon of September 28, 2021, the Center organized a virtual Educational Forum on “Policies and Solutions to Ensure the Quality of Teaching and Learning at Basic Education in Southeast Asia in the COVID-19 Pandemic” via the Zoom platform, back-to-back with the Center’s Governing Board Meeting. The main aims of the Forum were to create opportunities for leaders, educational researchers, and lecturers to share and update information on education policies in the COVID-19 pandemic in Southeast Asia and to identify challenges and propose

strategic solutions to improve the quality of basic education in the region. At the Forum, Governing Board Members from Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Vietnam, who are high officials and education experts, shared their experience and practices

from the perspectives of their countries, along with the keynote speech delivered by the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat. Attending the Forum were 170 leaders, education managers, lecturers, and teachers from countries in Southeast Asia.




### Modular Online Training Program 2021

While responding to the mission of assisting SEAMEO Member Countries in identifying and addressing issues of education, specifically Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Vietnam, SEAMEO RETRAC organizes a Modular Online Training Program on Educational Leadership and Management and Soft Skills for school leaders, managers, administrators, and teachers in the region on a monthly basis.

to improve student results and for the overall development of their schools; and to expand participant’s network among school educators in the region and continue learning from one another after the training. Starting from May 21, 2021, there will be 16 modules in total conducted every month until Dec 2021. And up-to-now, there has been more than 150


active participants who are teachers, professors, school leaders from Myanmar, Lao PRD, Cambodia and Vietnam participated in the program and received the Certificates of Completion.

The purposes of this training are to advance the participants competencies and skills to perform their tasks, so they are in a better position to contribute effectively for quality teaching and learning



## The Role of Teachers in Post Pandemic Education

Anita Clapano Oblina, Ph.D.  
Senior Education Specialist  
SEAMEO RETRAC, Vietnam



### The SEAMEO Congress 2021

The SEAMEO Congress 2021 for Education, Science and Culture in Southeast Asia, hosted by Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the Ministry of Education of Thailand gathered regional and global leaders and experts virtually on April 28-29, 2021. The Congress with the theme “Transforming Southeast Asian Education, Science and Culture in the Digital Age” featured diverse topics that support the transformation of Education, Science and Culture that

can effectively contribute towards the promotion of human development at the community, country, regional and at the global levels.

The SEAMEO Congress 2021 served a platform for the policymakers, teachers, researchers, and educators to exchange the effective policy, fruitful teaching experiences and share new learning paradigms and practices in the digital age. The SEAMEO Congress 2021 was successfully convened with more than 125 speakers, 7,500 participants on the FLOOR platform and more than 31,000 viewers on YouTube channel.

Besides, as similar as face-to-face conferences, through the FLOOR platform, participants were also able to visit 50 virtual booths provided by SEAMEO Centers’ and partners, as well as 50 e-Poster presentation booths.

Participating in SEAMEO Congress, SEAMEO RETRAC has exhibited its activities and upcoming international educational events at its virtual booth provided by the organizers. Besides, Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong, Center Director, moderated one of the parallel sessions on “Transforming Education for Quality Learning Outcomes”.

**Parallel Session 1 (Sub-Theme B): Empowering Teachers and Learners to Address Learning Poverty**  
SEAMEO Congress 2021

**Parallel Session 1 : Transforming Education for Quality Learning Outcomes**  
**Sub-Theme B: Empowering Teachers and Learners to Address Learning Poverty**

**Speakers:**

- Dr Krissanapong Kirtikara**, Chairman, Princess Mana Chakri Award Foundation Thailand
- Mr Francisco Benavides**, Regional Education Advisor, UNICEF EAPRO Thailand
- Ms Jarusri Jiravitkul**, Senior Manager – Education Kenan Foundation Asia Thailand
- Dr Darla K Deardorff**, Executive Director Association of International Education Administrators (AIEA), USA
- Mr Francis Jim Tuscano**, Global Teacher Prize Awardee Philippines

**Moderator:** **Dr Ho Thanh My Phuong**, Centre Director SEAMEO RETRAC, Vietnam

**Co-organisers:** unesco, SEAMEO

**Gold Partners:** nisaAsia, WILEY

**Silver Partners:** ENJOY SCIENCE, EEF

**Bronze Partners:** DepED, FESTO

**SEAMEO CONGRESS 2021 (Virtual)**  
Session is over. Network in Tables & use Entrance to visit other sessions.

### Webinar Series on English Language Teaching Methodology for English Teachers in Vietnam titled “Reflecting on Teaching by Thinking, Practicing, and Doing”

On August 24, 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC, in partnership with Regional English Language Office (RELO), U.S. Embassy in Hanoi, successfully held the Virtual Closing Ceremony of the webinar series on English language teaching methodology for English teachers in Vietnam titled “Reflecting on Teaching by Thinking, Practicing, and Doing”. The series of webinars was hosted by SEAMEO RETRAC and sponsored by RELO within the English Language Specialist Program. The series of webinars consisted of six webinars combining with online activities on SEAMEO RETRAC’s Tech4Teach platform, conducted from April 13 to August 24, 2021. The main topics of the webinars focused on current teaching methodology, second language acquisition (SLA)

**Achievement of the Objectives**

- ❖ The webinar series achieved its objectives, which was to provide participants with the advanced professional knowledge and skills focusing on current teaching methodology and second language acquisition theories.
- ❖ Participants had a great chance to widen their networking to colleagues from different place

Reflecting on Teaching by Thinking, Practicing, and Doing

theories, teaching 4 English language skills, critical thinking, using technology in English language teaching and preparing materials for mixed level classes. The series of webinars was delivered by Ms. Amy Christensen – RELO’s English Language Specialist from New Mexico, the United States.

At the closing ceremony, Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong – Director of SEAMEO RETRAC Center congratulated the

participants on completing the webinar series and thanked the Regional English Language Office (RELO) for sponsoring this program. Also, Mr. Jerrold Frank – RELO Vietnam Director expressed many thanks to SEAMEO RETRAC, Ms. Amy Christensen and all the participants for the hard-work and cooperation to complete the webinar series, he also hoped that the participants can utilize the knowledge from this webinar series, and share the knowledge with their colleagues as well as continue to expand their teacher community network in Vietnam. Approximately 100 English teachers from Southern provinces of Vietnam have enthusiastically attended the series of webinars.

**About Me**

**Have You Ever...? Oh, When?**

START Let's GO!

FINISH

Participants: Hong Ha Khanh..., Tran Quynh Mai, Duyet Phu Quyen, Amy Christensen, Quynh Trang...

## The Communicative English Training Course for Journalists and Media Professionals

On September 16, 2021, SEAMEO RETRAC successfully held the virtual Opening Ceremony of Communicative English Training Course for Journalists and Media Professionals. The training course was conducted by SEAMEO RETRAC and sponsored by Public Affairs Section, the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City within the grant of American Center – Journalism Club. The course will last from September 16, 2021 to February 01, 2022 with 180 periods of instructions and 08 periods of enhancement activities.

The course aims to equip the participants with English language knowledge and skills needed in their profession,



such as communication & interview skills, written English and grammar. Simultaneously, it provides them with an environment where they can exchange, share and learn from other experienced journalists and media professionals.

At the Opening Ceremony, Dr. Ho Thanh My Phuong – Director of SEAMEO RETRAC welcomed all the participants of the course and expressed her sincere thanks to Public Affairs Section, the U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City for their sponsorship and collaboration. Also, Ms. Bintu Musa-Harry, Information

Officer, U.S. Consulate General in Ho Chi Minh City expressed many thanks to SEAMEO RETRAC for professionally conducting this meaningful training course, she also hoped that the participants will take away useful knowledge and skills from the course, and expand their professional network. 31 participants who are journalists, editors, media professionals and students from many news agencies and other organizations in Ho Chi Minh City are selected to join the training course.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### October 25-27, 2021

Regional Virtual Training Course on “Capacity Building in Higher Education Leadership and Management” for Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Vietnam

### October 28-29, 2021

International Conference on Global Leadership and Management in Higher Education: Innovations and Best Practices (Blended)

### October 29, 2021

Modular Online Training Programme on Educational Leadership and Management for Southeast Asia (Session 7&8)

## The virtual 51st SEAMEO Council Conference 2021

The Ministry of Education, Singapore in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat convened the first virtual 51st SEAMEO Council Conference (51st SEAMEC) on June 17, 2021. The virtual conference was attended by more than 200 participants comprising of the Ministers of Education, delegation, and senior education officials from 11 SEAMEO Member Countries, SEAMEO Associate Member Countries, Affiliate Members, 26 SEAMEO Regional Centers/Network as well as SEAMEO partners. During the 51st SEAMEC, some highlighted discussions are about the launch of the SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030, the presentation of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership



to the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada, and the approval of the new Associate Member of SEAMEO, the Kingdom of Morocco.

In addition, organizing back-to-back with the 51st SEAMEC was the “5th Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers” (SDEM 5), following the theme of Singapore’s presidency “New Education Imperatives in a Post-COVID Era”. Then, the “SEAMEO Council’s Commitment to Action” was launched as the Singapore Statement of the SDEM 5 and adopted by the SEAMEO

Council for the purpose of improving educational outcomes in the region.

Also on this occasion, Mr. Vu Quoc Hung, 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.

### November 01-04, 2021

Master of Art in Applied Linguistics - Intake 20

### November 11-12, 2021

Training course on “Strategy Development and Quality Assurance Implementation”

### December 15-16, 2021

Training course on “ICT Applications in Teaching and Course Management” for universities and colleges



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