



innotech newsletter

Newsletter of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional
Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH)

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Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH) is dedicated to identifying common and unique education problems and needs of Southeast Asian countries and developing innovative and technology-based solutions to address these needs.

The Center aids in educational development within and outside the region through its service areas: training and human resource development, research and development, knowledge management and special programs focusing on key areas of concern in the Southeast Asian education community.

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ON THE COVER



The Center held its Governing Board Meeting in Timor-Leste for the first time.



FIRST GBM IN TIMOR-LESTE. The 62nd Governing Board Meeting is the first to be convened in Timor-Leste. Along with the GBM, the Center signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two educational institutions in Timor-Leste.

INNOTECH CONVENES 62ND GOVERNING BOARD MEETING IN TIMOR-LESTE

From 01 to 04 October 2018, SEAMEO INNOTECH convened its annual Governing Board Meeting in Dili, Timor-Leste. The Center's Governing Board members, the SEAMEO Secretariat representative, and selected officers and staff of SEAMEO INNOTECH discussed the accomplishments of the past fiscal year and the future direction the Center.

Dr. Ramon C. Bacani, SEAMEO INNOTECH Director, led the discussion on the Center's accomplishments. He reported

on the success of the 15th International Conference, pilot run of the Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) on passion for teaching, two regional capacity building programs on Stakeholder Engagement, translation of knowledge products into selected Southeast Asian languages, and research projects on emerging concerns in the region like the ASEAN Integration. Detailed updates on the research projects and training programs of the Center were further discussed by respective office managers of SEAMEO INNOTECH. The Board Members commended the Center for its efforts in the past year, as well as its committed and forthcoming programs

in support of the educational needs and concerns of the region.

Furthermore and in aid of the development of its 10th Five-Year Development Plan, the Board also gave guidance to the Center, shared some suggestions and recommendations on the aspect of education that INNOTECH can work on. Assoc. Prof. Trung Hung Vo, the Chair of the SEAMEO INNOTECH Governing Board, suggested to explore on the implications of the Fourth Industrial Revolution. He said that with the changing education landscape, it is important to make sure that the teaching

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and learning processes are still aligned and kept relevant.

Along with the Governing Board Meeting, INNOTECH also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with two institutions in Timor-Leste such as the National Institute for Training of Teachers and Education Professionals, or INFORDEPE (Instituto Nacional de Formação de

Docentes e Profissionais da Educação), and the National University of Timor-Leste, or UNTL (Universidade Nacional de Timor Lorosa'e). Through partnerships with these institutions, INNOTECH hoped to organize collaborative activities and programs in the country. The partnership aimed to foster collaboration on research, capacity building, and knowledge management

in the field of education and technology.

The Governing Board Meeting served as a platform for each of the SEAMEO member countries to give guidance and recommendations for the future direction of the Center. Important decisions and agreements were made through this meeting with the guidance of the Board. 

SEAMEO INNOTECH AND CAPITOL UNIVERSITY TEAM UP FOR JOINT GRADUATE DIPLOMA

SEAMEO INNOTECH and Capitol University established their partnership through a ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement, 16 October 2018. The partnership will foster the development of teachers' capacities through a Joint Graduate Diploma Program.

Through this Joint Graduate Diploma, school heads and teachers who are enrolled in Capitol University's Master's Degree program may earn academic units by completing selected INNOTECH flexible courses. This program also gives the learners an



alternative way, and a more flexible arrangement, in attaining their Master's Degree.

The MOA signing with Capitol University was held along with the Revalida and Graduation Ceremony of the 800 public school teachers in Region X. These teachers have successfully completed their flexible courses—TEACHeXCELS (Teaching and Learning Excellence in School Leadership for Southeast Asia) and GURO 21 (Gearing Up for

Responsible and Outstanding Teachers for the 21st Century).

The Agreement was signed by Mr. Juan Robertino "Robbie" Macalde, Senior Specialist of the Flexible Learning Solutions Unit of SEAMEO INNOTECH, and by Dr. Amor Q. De Torres, Vice President for Academic Affairs of Capitol University. Signing as witnesses were Dr. Arturo Bayocot, Regional Director of the Department of Education Region X, and the Division Superintendents of Region X. 



ADVANCING TECHNOLOGY IN EDUCATION. Dr. Paul Teng highlighted the importance of advancing technology in education—democratizing learning and simplifying knowledge-sharing.

INNOTECH AND NIE INTERNATIONAL SINGAPORE SIGNS MOU

Dr. Paul Teng, Managing Director of National Institute of Education (NIE) International, visited the Philippines to formally sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SEAMEO INNOTECH, 9 November 2018. Dr. Ramon C. Bacani, Center Director of SEAMEO INNOTECH, signed the said memorandum together with Dr. Paul Teng.

NIE International, the official training arm of the National

Institute of Education Singapore, will work on collaborative projects with SEAMEO INNOTECH to advance the two institution's research, training, and knowledge management services. The two institutions will also strengthen their cooperation through sharing of resources and expertise on teacher training, school management, and educational leadership programs to name a few.

Making the most out of his brief visit to the Center, Dr. Teng gave a presentation to highlight the role of NIE International in the development of

Singapore's education landscape, particularly in teacher preparation and continuous professional development. As NIE International is also focused on advancing technology in education, he further emphasized its important contribution in education. He said that technology will democratize learning and will simplify knowledge sharing; technology will be an enabler especially for the younger generations as long as it is used correctly and its limitations are understood.

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GALLERY



FOUNDED ON HOPE. This season of giving and sharing, Center staff and partners spent a day with the kids from House of Refuge Foundation, Inc.





A CANDYLAND CHRISTMAS.
It's a sweet holiday season in the Center as staff and partners celebrate Christmas with their families and friends.



Mr. Benito E. Benozza, Manager of Knowledge Management and Networking Office of SEAMEO INNOTECH, pointed out that learning from the experiences of NIE International is very valuable for the Center, especially now

that INNOTECH is nearing its 50th anniversary and is currently developing its 10th Five-year Development Plan.

SEAMEO INNOTECH continues to establish partnership with organizations

and institutions to help the Center reach more stakeholder and provide a better future for every learner in the region.



ENHANCING LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT SKILLS. The SEDF program strengthened the school heads' integrated set of leadership and managerial competencies.

EXCELLENCE IN SCHOOL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM INTEGRATES 5 CORE COMPETENCIES

Different from the usual program design, the recently concluded Excellence in School Leadership program under the SEAMEO Education Development Fund (SEDF) integrated the 5 core competencies of a successful

school head into one program. Twenty-eight (28) school heads from 11 Southeast Asian country successfully completed the 3-phased course.

The program aims to strengthen the school heads' integrated set of leadership and managerial competencies. With the continuously evolving education landscape, school heads take on a more challenging role as they ensure that their learners are future-ready. School heads are

expected to think strategically, lead innovations, manage school operations, ensure continual improvement, and engage the community all at the same time.

Through the 3 phases of the program, participating school heads were able to analyse the current and emerging trends in the education landscape, review their own strategies and learn better practices from each other, and conduct stakeholder analysis to identify

ways to better engage the community. Phase 1 of the program, which was held on October 2018, focused on getting to know each other, profiling participants' own strengths and areas for improvement and their expectations to the program were also levelled off. Through online discussions, they were able to share individual reflections on their daily life as a school head. The participants were also able to exchange ideas about the current issues and concerns that impact the way they lead and manage the schools.

“We are very busy occupying ourselves with the operational work in school that we have no time to observe what is happening outside our school and ponder how they can impact us as educators,” shared Mdm. Teng Lai Kwan, one of the participants from Singapore.

Phase 2 of the program, which happened on November 2018, is where most of the work is done. In their 2-week stay in the Philippines, the participants were able to deepen their understanding of the current and emerging changes in the education landscape that impact their schools. Using experiential learning approach, they were able to strengthen their competencies as well as practices along the different

core competencies of a school head. An important part of the program was the two-day school immersion where a team of 6-7 participants worked closely with the host school principal and together, they came up with a shared understanding of the issues and concerns being encountered by the host school. This enabled them to suggest some priority action points to address the pressing school issues and concerns. The participants considered this as the high point of the program. The group of participants were assigned to different schools—Valenzuela National High School, Polo National High School, Pio Valenzuela Elementary School, Commonwealth High School, and Quirino National High School. At the end of the 2-week session, the participants were able to develop their own Action Plan to address the priority areas they have identified for their respective schools.

“From the school immersion session, I learned how a successful school leverage on every possible resource to educate a child,” said Ulysses Tennyson, one of the participants from Brunei Darussalam. He also shared that he learned the importance of learning from the community and incorporating them to the school's agenda. He said that

“This experience proved that no matter which stage of your career you are in, there is always more to be learnt and to enrich when there is a community of like-minded people gathered to share and exchange great tips to apply when one returns back to school.”

Mrs. Mabel Leong,
School Head from Singapore

this is one of the first things he will do to improve their school.

The Excellence in School Leadership program may have ended with the last online discussion in December 2018, but the learning doesn't stop there. As they return to their own schools, the participating school heads started to implement some of the activities they have developed during their stay in the Philippines. The learners also continue the knowledge sharing and exchange among them as they discuss the lessons they have learned through online discussions. 

SEAMEO COUNCIL PRESIDENT VISITS THE PHILIPPINES

Indonesia's Minister of Education and Culture, and concurrently the SEAMEO Council President, HE Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy, was in the Philippines on 14 November 2018 as part of his annual visit to the different SEAMEO member countries. Along with Officials from the Ministry of Education and Culture (MOEC) Indonesia, representatives from the Philippine Department of Education (DepEd), and representatives from the SEAMEO Secretariat (SEAMES) headed by its Director, Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto, Dr. Effendy was briefed on the operations, projects, and programs of the three SEAMEO Centers hosted in the country—INNOTECH, TROPED Philippines, and SEARCA.

Dr. Ramon C. Bacani, Center Director of SEAMEO INNOTECH, gave a brief overview of the Center's operations, as well as accomplishment throughout the year, some of which are the 15th International Conference which focused on Inclusive Education, the first Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC) focusing on teacher motivation, and GURO21 winning the UNESCO Wenhui Awards 2017 on "Innovations in the Professional Development of Teachers". He also showcased



STRONGER COLLABORATION. HE Prof. Dr. Muhadjir Effendy committed to coordinate with SEAMES and collaborate with the different SEAMEO Centers to advance education in the region.

activities and programs which highly involved Indonesia, like the training program on School Leadership, eXCELS courses, Mobile Technology for Teachers (MT4T), Alternative Delivery Modes, and Fit for School. He highlighted that the Center's success may be attributed to the cooperation of the different government agencies and partner development organizations.

Prof. Romeo Quizon, Center Director of SEAMEO TROPED Philippines and Dean of the College of Public Health in the University of the Philippines Manila, highlighted that the Center is committed to developing a more comprehensive school health program for the region in collaboration with the other TROPED Networks in Malaysia and Thailand.

He also shared some of the achievements of the Center within the year, including several community service programs, conferences, workshops, and established network and linkages.

Dr. Maria Celeste H. Cadiz, Technical Advisor for Knowledge Management of SEAMEO SEARCA, presented on behalf of the Center's Director. She emphasized that the Center is currently focused on Inclusive and Sustainable Agricultural and Rural Development, which are articulated in their core programs. She highlighted some of their accomplishments, like the scholarship they have provided for students, conferences and forums they have mounted, workshops and training they have

facilitated, and researches they have published. Dr. Cadiz also showcased the planned Southeast Asian Agrimuseum to be built in Los Baños, Laguna. She further mentioned that SEARCA continues to work closely with government agencies and development institutions in order to further promote the importance of agriculture and inspire stakeholders to help shape the future of agriculture in Southeast Asia.

Hearing the presentations from the three SEAMEO Centers in the Philippines,

Dr. Effendy expressed his gratitude and commended the efforts and strong commitments of each Center. He related the SEAMEO countries and Centers to an orchestra.

“Like an orchestra that consists of different musical instrument, each instrument is beautiful in its own way. But when all instruments come together, they can present a more powerful performance that moves people,” he said. He called for the need for intensified collaboration among SEAMEO Centers. He

added that, as the SEAMEC President, he commits to coordinate with SEAMES and collaborate with the different SEAMEO Centers in carrying out tasks towards the development of education in the region.

The SEAMEO Council is the highest policy-making body of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO). The Council is composed of the Education Ministers of the SEAMEO member countries. 



UNIVERSIDADE NASIONAL TIMOR-LOROSA’E (UNTL) MEETS WITH SEAMEO INNOTECH FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT



On 14 December 2018, Prof. Dr. Francisco Miguel Martins, Rector of Universidade Nasional Timor-Lorosa’e (UNTL), accompanied by his colleagues visited SEAMEO INNOTECH to discuss about the collaborations of the two institutions.

CONCRETIZING PLANS. After signing the contract last October, the Center and UNTL concretized their plans for their collaboration.

After signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) back in October, this meeting served as a venue to concretize

plans for the identified collaborative projects. Given the context of UNTL and current education situation of Timor-Leste, the two institutions agreed to focus on two things: internal quality assurance of UNTL and teacher training.

Mr. Benito Benozza, manager of SEAMEO INNOTECH's Knowledge Management and Networking Office, facilitated the discussions alongside other representatives from varying offices. One solution identified to address the needs of UNTL is for INNOTECH to provide technical assistance on the areas of concern.

Given that UNTL has just recently established its internal quality system, they hope to benchmark and learn

from the practices of the Center in ensuring the quality of its products and services. Improving on their quality system, as emphasized by Dr. Francisco, would allow UNTL to produce better programs and help upgrade the quality of education in the country.

Dr. Francisco has also highlighted the need to improve the capacity of their professors, particularly in pedagogy and developing learning design. Experienced on managing online courses and face-to-face training programs for teachers, INNOTECH shared its Off-the-Shelf courses, namely GURO21, TEACHEXCELS, and SUPEReXCELS which are online courses for teachers and school heads to improve on their 21st century teaching-

learning skills, instructional leadership, and supervision respectively. These courses may be contextualized to fit in the needs of UNTL and Timor-Leste.

The two institutions hope for these projects to materialize starting January 2019, which is the start of academic year in Timor-Leste. Other collaborative projects that are still up for discussions are the sharing of e-resources through integration of online libraries and the joint-research project on Timor-Leste education.

Universidade Nasional Timor-Lorosa'e (UNTL) or the National University of Timor-Leste is the country's major institution of higher education. 