



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

15th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference

Executive Report



The SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference is one of the Center’s longest-running programs. First held in 1986, it is now convened every two or three years and serves as a platform for discussing key and relevant issues on education and development as well as a venue for the Center to promote and disseminate some of its research and knowledge products.

In line with its vision of a better future for every learner in Southeast Asia, the Center organized the 15th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference (15th IC) which once again provided Southeast Asian educators and their counterparts from around the world the opportunity to interact, exchange ideas, and learn from each other’s experiences. The 15th IC focused on inclusive quality education with its theme “Thriving in the Margins: Inclusive Education Re-Imagined,” and was held at the SEAMEO INNOTECH Campus in Diliman, Quezon City, Philippines from March 6 to 8, 2018.

OBJECTIVE

The 15th IC was convened as a contribution to the fulfilment of the Center’s mission to enable the education community in Southeast Asia to effectively respond to current and emerging education needs and concerns. This includes support for the global Sustainable Development Goal No. 4 of “ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.” In particular, the Conference became an avenue in sharing narratives as well as discuss issues and opportunities related to providing quality education to traditionally marginalized learners. Such learners may include, but not limited to, indigenous peoples, persons with disability, undocumented migrants, child laborers, juvenile delinquents, teenage parents, adult illiterates, victims of violence, people with learning disabilities, and those emotionally and psychologically excluded within a family.

METHODOLOGY

In lieu of traditional conference formats involving multiple speakers, panels and presentations, the 15th IC employed a modified version of Open Space Technology (OST) in the conduct of the conference. OST-modeled learning conversations engaged participants to discuss education-related issues, as well as exchanged and shared new ideas and best practices in the implementation of inclusive teaching and learning strategies from their own experiences. The Conference also used the power of personal narratives with its nine compelling storytellers who were meticulously chosen for their rich history in pursuing quality education amidst

challenging learning circumstances, and the impact they have made in creating an inclusive thriving learning community. These deliberations and storytelling were anchored on the 15th IC Inclusive Framework’s three learning themes related to inclusive education: i) Inclusive Leadership, ii) Inclusive Learning Culture, and iii) Inclusive Policies and Practices. Also part of the methodology is the weaving of all the narratives by the Conference Weavers in subsequent synthesis sessions to answer the question, “How do we grow a learning community that welcomes everyone?”

In the build up to the 15th IC, pre-conference conversations were conducted on the Conference’s social media accounts through stimulating posts, photos, quotes, and Facebook Live! sessions structured around the Four Pillars of Inclusive and Balanced Education developed by the Education Relief Foundation (ERF): i) Intraculturalism, ii) Transdisciplinarity, iii) Dialecticism, and iv) Contextuality. The objective of this pre-conference activity was to engage experts, practitioners, and other key stakeholders on issues and challenges pertaining to the inclusivity of education. Two Facebook Live! sessions were conducted—first was with 2009 CNN Hero of the Year, Efren Peñaflorida on February 9, 2018, followed by Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones of the Philippine Department of Education last February 27, 2018.

CONFERENCE PARTNERS

Co-organizers

The 15th IC was endorsed by the three education agencies of the Philippines: Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), and Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).



The Conference was also co-organized by the Swiss-based Education Relief Foundation (ERF) and the Asia South Pacific Association for Basic and Adult Education (ASPBAE). As co-organizers, they provided financial and technical support to the Conference.



Sponsors and Supporter

The generous sponsors of the conference included Resorts World Manila, the Local Government of Quezon City, Private Education Assistance Committee (PEAC), Singapore-based The HEAD Foundation, Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), Lopez Group Foundation, and Servicion Filipino, Inc.



SEAMEO INNOTECH is also grateful for the support provided by the Philippine Network for Inclusive Education (PNIE) who helped mobilize conference participants and provided technical assistance in ensuring that the Center is accessible for persons with disabilities in preparation for the 15th IC and other future events.

Philippine Network for Inclusive Education

CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

The 15th IC was opened by the Center Director, Dr. Ramon C. Bacani, who also welcomed the more than 250 participants.

"The conference is a modest contribution of the Center in achieving the Sustainable Development Goal 4: Inclusive Quality Education. The conference also aligns with SEAMEO's 7 priority areas, particularly on addressing barriers to inclusion."



©SEAMEO INNOTECH



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

A keynote speech was delivered by the President of Education Relief Foundation (ERF), Sheikh Manssour bin Mussalam, who introduced ERF's Four Pillars of Balanced and Inclusive Education: Intraculturalism, Transdisciplinarity, Dialecticism, and Contextuality.

"This task cannot be achieved by any one government, any one organisation, any one policy, any one initiative, any one generation. It must be a cooperative, collective, sustained and sustainable effort."

Dr. Leonor Magtolis Briones, Secretary of the Philippine Department of Education, also delivered a message and her personal story on what transformative education can bring.

"Education is about giving our children the opportunity to make a choice."



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

Storytellers (Day One: March 6, 2018)

The first to share her story was Shilpa Raj from India. Born in a social underclass, Shilpa deviated from the norms and went under a transformative education and modern upbringing through Shanti Bhavan—a boarding school established by an Indian-American philanthropist to cater to children from India’s lowest socioeconomic class. She is now a counsellor, teacher, author, and an advocate for quality education for the poor.

“Through the empowerment I received from my education, I was able to overcome the limitations of my family’s circumstances and find my escape. I now have a voice and the power to aspire.”



©SEAMEO INNOTECH



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

Following Shilpa was a former Regional Director in Mindanao of the Philippine Department of Agrarian Reform, Charlito “Kaloy” Manlupig. A painful episode gave Kaloy an inspiration to put up Balay Mindanaw together with a few of his golden friends. It is an organization that supports the land rights of the farmers. From a house that volunteers built, it is now a home of volunteers who wanted to transform Mindanao towards equity, development, and peace.

The last storyteller for Day One was Rex Bernardo. Rex was five when he was diagnosed with polio—he was not sent to school until he was nineteen. Rex would later receive accolades such as the Apolinario Mabini Presidential Award and the Gerry Roxas Medal of Excellence. He also became the first person on a wheelchair to receive recognition as one of The Outstanding Young Men. Now, he is one of the founding members of the Philippine Network for Inclusive Education.



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

Storytellers (Day Two : March 7, 2018)



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

Day Two storytelling was rolled off by Prescilla Tulipat of the University of the Philippines' Office of Anti-Sexual Harassment. A counsellor, a women's advocate, and an educator, Prescilla transformed her pain and trauma to courage and healing. She believes that academic setting can be inclusive and transformative for survivors of gender-based violence when there is available supportive and sensitive groups such as teachers who create opportunities for them to meaningfully contribute insights and learning.

Next storyteller was Benjamin "Ben" Abadiano. After leaving the seminary, Ben undertook a spiritual journey among the Philippines' indigenous people communities. This led him to a path towards being the first Filipino to win the Ramon Magsaysay Emergent Leadership Award in 2004 for establishing the Tugdaan Center for Mangyans, an education and development institution managed by Mangyan leaders.



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

Closing the storytelling of Day Two was Bai Rohaniza Sumndad-Usman. Rohaniza was nine when she and her family were caught in a war in the Middle East. This first-hand experience of armed conflict motivated her to champion peace-building initiatives in the Philippines. She founded the Teach Peace, Build Peace Movement which aims to make every Filipino child and youth a peace builder.



©SEAMEO INNOTECH

"We need more changemakers for peace, because we need to create more generations of peace builders, not just for this generation, but for future generations."

Storytellers (Day Three : March 8, 2018)

The last day of the Conference started with the story of Jesus Catigan Insilada of Iloilo. Jesus is widely recognized by multiple award-giving bodies for his innovation and creativity in using recycled and indigenous materials for teaching, and integrating local culture to the curriculum. From being a student from an indigenous peoples community, who walked barefoot for an hour to attend school, Jesus is now the Principal (School Head) of a secondary school in his home province.

"I readily embraced my indigenous name Igtaman to always remind me that I have no reasons to stumble or to be discouraged. I am destined to be a teacher to share my talents and skills, my insights and stories."



Another storyteller who had experienced a raging war, albeit internal, was Fr. Roberto "Bobby" dela Cruz. From a drug addict who was in and out of prison and rehabilitation programs, Fr. Bobby now heads a community-based rehabilitation program of Caritas Manila that encourages drug dependents to surrender, rehab, and start anew.

The final storyteller of the 15th IC was Lynette dela Cruz-Tupas. Witnessing the plight of undocumented immigrants in Sabah, Lynette started a learning center for mothers to teach their own children. Through a dynamic learning system, children would learn basic English and Math after just a year. From being plain housewives, the mothers have risen to become the pillars of the community.



Learning Conversations

Throughout the Conference, a total of 82 learning conversations were convened by the participants themselves who were able to cover a multitude of topics. These sharing of experiences and ideas were documented and were sent to their respective convenors for validation.



©SEAMEO INNTECH

Conversation Weavers

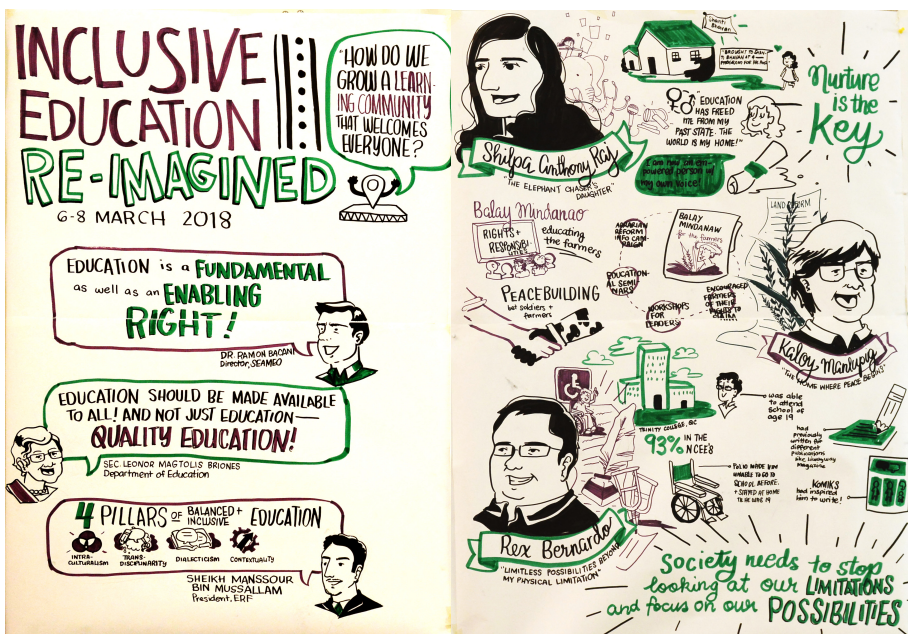
Three “Conversation Weavers” facilitated the daily synthesis and overall synthesis of stories shared and learning conversations convened during the three-day conference. The syntheses were supported by individual action agenda that participants can apply in their own settings. The syntheses helped the participants make sense of the shared stories and discussions to redefine their own understanding of inclusion and how they can help support and improve access to quality education for all.



©SEAMEO INNTECH

Graphic Documentation

A graphic facilitator created a visual documentation of the entire Conference which helped in the synthesis of the stories shared and served as a platform through which participants can easily remember the conversations held at the 15th IC.



©Marielle Ferrer

PROFILE OF PARTICIPANTS

The 15th IC exceeded its target number of participants by over 70 percent, gathering a total of 267 attendees from across the Southeast Asian region and beyond. 49 percent of these attendees were female while 31 percent were male (20% of which are unspecified). (Figure 1)

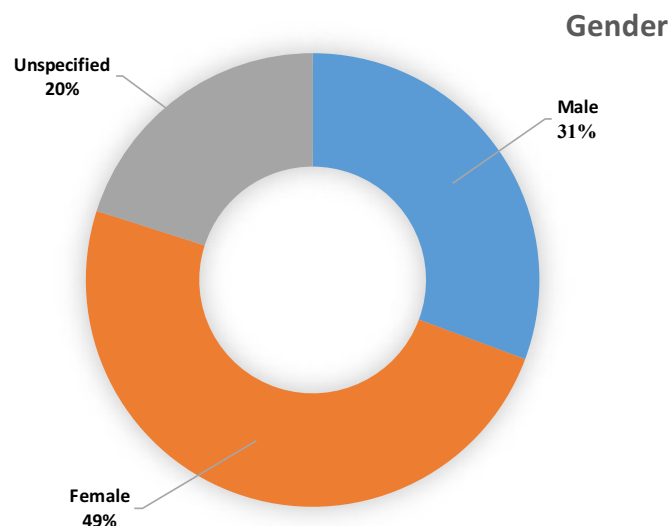


Figure 1. 15th IC Participants Gender Ratio

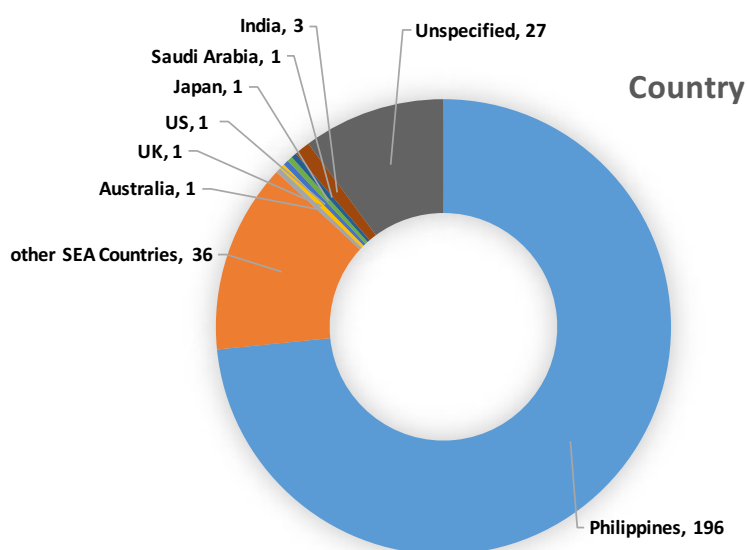


Figure 2. 15th IC Participants Country of Origin

Participants of the Conference came from 16 countries with almost three-quarter of them from the Philippines. Nine other SEAMEO-member countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam) were likewise represented with 36 attendees, in total. The 15th IC also had three participants from India and one each from Australia, Japan, Saudi Arabia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. (Figure 2)

The Philippine Department of Education (DepEd) sent 84 participants. They include ministry officials (national, regional and division offices), school heads, and teachers. The second highest attendees per affiliation are those coming from non-government organizations (NGOs) with 41 participants, followed by 29 participants each from higher education institutions (HEIs) and participants from the Regional Scholarship for Education Leaders and Managers (SELM) composed of representatives of education ministries of other SEAMEO-member countries. International non-government organizations (INGOs) and local government units (LGUs) also had twenty participants each. Nine more participants had different affiliations while 35 attendees did not specify theirs. (Figure 3)

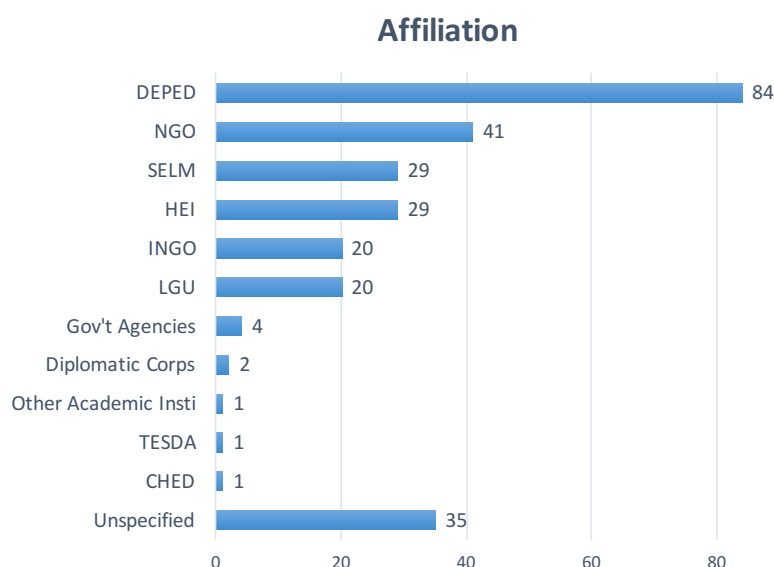


Figure 3. 15th IC Participants Affiliation

EVALUATION

Participants to the Conference were given a number of ways to participate and indicate their responses to the questions in the evaluation instrument developed. The Center utilized technology to systematically and efficiently gather feedback from conference participants, ensuring ease of use and access to the questionnaire. A number of options on how to respond were provided: online evaluation form, computer-based evaluation kiosks, and paper-based evaluation.

The evaluation instrument focused on four critical success indicators in assessing the Conference – information on how the participants learned about the 15th IC, pre-conference conversations, various elements of the conference proper, and some open-ended questions. The evaluation also utilized a five-point Likert scale to measure level of satisfaction as follows:

Rating:	Description:
5 -	Delighted
4 -	Very Satisfied
3 -	Satisfied
2 -	Partly Satisfied
1 -	Not at all Satisfied

Evaluation of Pre-Conference Conversation

When asked to rate their satisfaction level on the series of Facebook Live! Interviews with key education leaders and personalities, majority (62%) said that they were Delighted while 16 percent said that they were Very Satisfied. Eleven percent said that they were Satisfied while 2 percent said they were Partly Satisfied. (Figure 4)

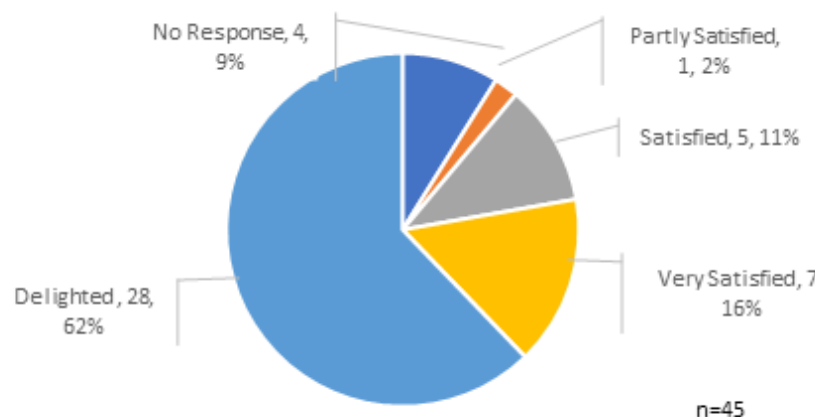


Figure 4. Preconference conversations satisfaction level – Platform Used (Facebook)

When asked to identify the strengths of the pre-conference conversations, the respondents gave the following remarks:

1. Topics posted were very informative, helpful, very interesting, thought-provoking; well-designed and well-presented
2. Discussions ignited greater interest and excitement on the conference proper
3. People interviewed shared their knowledge and expertise using a platform that is accessible to many

Respondents were also requested to identify areas for improvement. The following are the responses given by those who answered the evaluation form:

1. Reduce redundant topics
2. More videos showing stories of real people and their situations and successes
3. Suggest to use other software, like OBS (Open Broadcaster Software) – a free and open source software for video recording and live streaming

Evaluation of Conference Proper

When asked to assess their overall satisfaction level for the entire conference, 39 percent of the participants said that they were Delighted, 47 percent said they were Very Satisfied, 8 percent said they were Satisfied, and four percent said they were Partly Satisfied. (Figure 5)

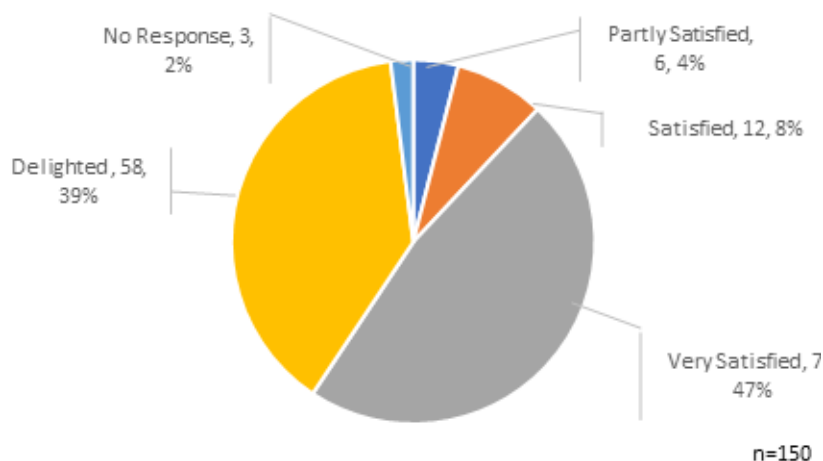


Figure 5. Overall Satisfaction Level

The participants were also asked to identify the major strengths of the Conference. Some of the strengths of the Conference enumerated by those who participated included the following:

1. Great set of inspiring storytellers
2. Motivating and inspiring. Validated my passion in inclusive education
3. Open Space widened our ideas on Inclusive Education through other people's experiences

When asked about areas for improvement, the following are some of the answers given by the respondents:

1. The learning conversations would be more interesting if we have some experts who will help and further enlighten us with their ideas in our chosen topic.
2. We could've invited more students/teachers who are PWDs, IPs or from conflict areas to share their narratives as well and how they were able to champion inclusive education.
3. If possible after ideas are documented, another day should be set for action planning.

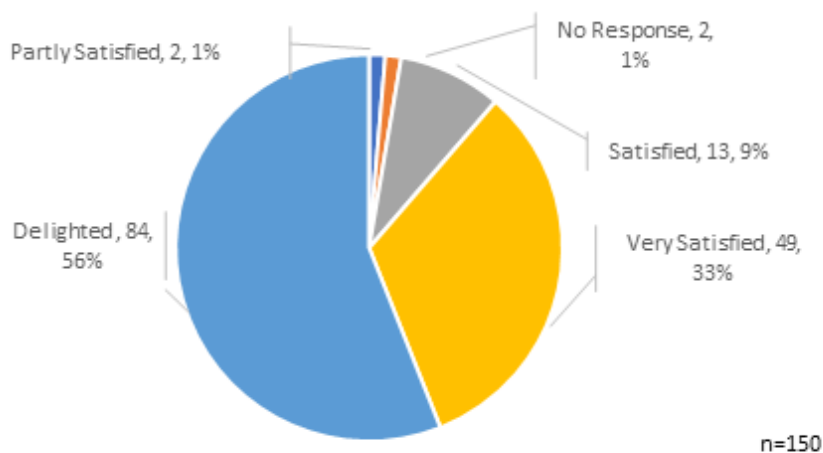


Figure 6. Satisfaction Level – Keynote Speaker

Evaluation of Keynote Speaker

The Conference Keynote Speaker, Sheikh Manssour Bil Moussalam, President of Education Relief Foundation, was also evaluated by Conference participants. Majority were Delighted (56%) with the keynote speaker while 33 percent were Very Satisfied. Nine percent of the respondents said that they were Satisfied while one percent said they were Partly Satisfied. (Figure 6)

This year's international conference was a highly successful one considering the number of delegates who took part in said event. Satisfaction levels on all aspects of the Conference, including the pre-conference conversations, were very high with a vast majority signifying their satisfaction levels to be either Delighted or Very Satisfied.

The international conferences of the Center continue to be a trusted venue for exchange of ideas and experiences in the field of education with 93 percent of those who responded saying that they would recommend the Conference to others.

The full evaluation report of the 15th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference is attached as reference.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

With sincere gratitude, the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH) acknowledges the invaluable support and contributions of the following in making the 15th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference a resounding success:



all the Storytellers who selflessly shared their stories and inspired everyone to continue advocating for an inclusive learning community for all;



the Conference Weavers who were given the onerous task of synthesizing all the learning conversations and narratives shared at the Conference;



the Story Editor for his role in ensuring the 25 stories of inclusion bannered at the Conference were immersive and transformative;



the Graphic Facilitator for the wonderful graphic documentation of the Conference which helped in the synthesis of stories shared;



the National Council on Disability Affairs (NCDA) for conducting an Accessibility Audit of the Center's facilities and a Disability Sensitivity Orientation for Center staff;



the co-organizers, sponsors, and supporters of the 15th IC who generously shared their expertise, resources, and assistance, and helped enable the participation of delegates from marginalized sectors in the region and beyond; and




DepEd Secretary Leonor Magtolis-Briones for serving as a resource person in a Facebook Live! session last February 27, 2018, and for gracing the opening program of the 15th SEAMEO INNOTECH International Conference.

Finally, the Center would like to thank all the 267 participants for their enthusiasm and active participation at the Conference. The experiences and insights they have shared serve as significant inputs to the discourse on how to grow a learning community that welcomes everyone.

LINKS

- Conference Website — <https://seameo-innotech.odoo.com/>
- 15th IC Facebook page — <https://facebook.com/icinnotech>
- 15th IC Twitter page — <https://twitter.com/icinnotech>
- 15th IC Instagram account — <https://instagram.com/icinnotech>
- Stories of Inclusive Education — <https://seameo-innotech.odoo.com/page/stories-on-inclusive-education>
- Conference Photos — https://www.facebook.com/pg/icinnotech/photos/?tab=album&album_id=1591741807613615
- Conference Highlights Video — <https://www.facebook.com/icinnotech/videos/1602546049866524/>
- Pre-Conference Conversations
 - » Mr. Efren Peñaflorida — <https://www.facebook.com/icinnotech/videos/1559316844189445/>
 - » Sec. Leonor Briones — <https://www.facebook.com/icinnotech/videos/1572948292826300/>
- Inclusive Framework — <http://www.seameo-innotech.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/15th-IC-Framework.pdf>
- Graphic Documentation — <https://goo.gl/Y1t8TQ>
- Learning Conversation Reports — <https://goo.gl/gp86Px>



Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology
Commonwealth Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1101 Philippines
Tel. (+632) 9247681 to 84 • Fax: (+632) 9210224

   [seameoinnotech](https://www.seameo-innotech.org)

www.seameo-innotech.org
ISO 9001 & 29990 Certified

