



Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization
Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development



SEAMEO RIHED

Bulletin



Workshop on Preparation of a Project Proposal for Bidding



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Workshop on Preparation of a Project Proposal for Bidding

26 - 29 June 2002

Sol Twin Towers Hotel

Bangkok, Thailand



Associate Professor Songkram Luangtongkum, Deputy Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, welcoming participants.

"The Workshop on Preparation of a Project Proposal for Bidding" was co-organised by the Ministry of University Affairs and SEAMEO RIHED. University and higher education administrators and professors from various institutions throughout Thailand, and some staff from SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO RIHED attended this workshop. There were two sessions of the workshop. Each session was three days long and had approximately 30-35 participants. At the opening ceremonies the Deputy Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Associate Professor Songkram Luangtongkum, officially welcomed the participants to the workshop.

(con't on p. 4)



Visits & Linkages



Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director SEAMEO RIHED, paying a courtesy call to H. E. Mr. Suwat Liptapanloporn (*centre*), the new Minister of University Affairs, and (*left*) Dr. Pravich Rattanapian, Advisor to the Minister of University Affairs.



Professor Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn, Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Thailand, visited RIHED on 23 April, 2002.



left- Ms. Kirsten Heber, Canadian Intern at SEAMEO Secretariat, Mr. Russel Boris, and Dr Padoongchart Suwanawongse.

Mr. Russel Boris, Manager of International Education at Medicine Hat College, Canada, visited RIHED. Mr. Boris is interested in establishing linkages between universities in Thailand and Medicine Hat College, and in recruiting Thai students to study at Medicine Hat College.



Dr. Syamsuddin Hasan, 2001 SEAMEO-Jasper Fellowship Awardee, visited RIHED and presented his research on the "Improvement of the Marginal Land Productivity with Three Strata Forage System Integrated with Male Bali Cattle."



left- Mr. Chris De-Nie, official from the Netherlands and Ms. Bonnie Horbach, Second Secretary of the Royal Netherlands Embassy, Bangkok, visiting RIHED to discuss the project on Quality Assurance Training.



right- Mr. Roger King, IDP Australia (team leader) and Ms. Helen Patterson, audit New Zealand.

Mr. Roger King and Ms. Helen Patterson are both specialists in project evaluation and education representing New Zealand. They are part of a review team seeking RIHED's views on the Mekong Institute and its role in helping meet the human resource development training needs of the Mekong region. The Mekong Institute was established in 1995 as a joint New Zealand/Thai project to contribute to human resource development and regional cooperation in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS: Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam and Yunnan Province of China).



Workshop for Designing a Pilot Project on the IT Component of a Future GMS Virtual University

17 - 19 June 2002 in Hanoi

This Workshop was organised by the Education, Communication and Information sectors of UNESCO Bangkok, Hanoi University of Technology, Viet Nam, and SEAMEO RIHED.

Professor Hoang Van Phong, Rector, Hanoi University of Technology, Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director, SEAMEO RIHED, Prof. Tran Kim Lan, Vice-Director of International Relations Department, Ministry of Education and Training, and Dr. Susanne Ornager, Adviser for Communication and Information in Asia/Pacific, UNESCO, delivered opening addresses which emphasised the importance of open and distance education in human resource development in the context of the GMS, and the key role IT plays in the emerging information society.

Professor Wang Yibing, UNESCO Bangkok, presented the strategic background leading to the proposed establishment of the GMS Virtual University, as well as the progress of the ongoing process of designing the "GMS Tourism" component of the pilot project. Also, delegates from the GMS countries presented their country reports. They emphasised the need for distance learning in their countries, described the status of their IT programmes, the challenges they faced and the various steps they have taken to overcome them.

The meeting was successful because many decisions were unanimously adopted by the delegates. One decision reached was that a GMS IT pilot project would be created among the participating universities from



front row: 4th from left- Professor Hoang Van Phong, Rector, Hanoi University of Technology and host of the workshop with distinguished guests and participants.

GMS countries and their partners. It would have three phases and three levels: a certificate, a diploma or a bachelor, and a master. Also, all courseware will be produced in English in the first phase, and then, the other two phases could be in languages other than English. Another decision the delegates reached was to unanimously elect Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University as the focal point of coordinating the development and operation of the pilot project. Furthermore, the credits received by the students in this course should be mutually recognised by the participating universities and countries, and partner institutions. Prior to the conclusion of the meeting, UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO RIHED were invited to consider organising a follow-up task force meeting to work out a full project proposal before the end of 2002.



Dr. Tanakorn Uan-On from Thailand presenting a report.



Cover Story

Workshop on Preparation of a Project Proposal for Bidding (con't)



Mr. Gregory Pearson, the workshop facilitator, commenting on group presentations.



Group discussing workplan.



Participant engaged in a discussion.

The facilitator, Mr. Gregory Pearson, from the Strategic Consulting Group in Hanoi, conducted the workshop. He explained that proposal writing is a long, difficult and costly exercise so it is important that proposal developers maximise their skills in order to achieve successful project results. He also pointed out that it is critical to develop and expand a university's network of funding agencies.

Moreover, there are two main types of proposals that organisations can develop: unsolicited and solicited. An unsolicited proposal is a written proposal that is submitted to a funding agency on the initiative of the organisation for the purpose of obtaining a contract or other agreement.



Group discussions.



Group devising workplan.

A solicited or competitive bidding proposal on the other hand, is where more than one organisation is sought to bid on a service or function. In this type of proposal, organisations respond to funding agencies tendered



seated from left- Mr. G. Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, and Planning, Ministry of and Dr. Padoongchar Director of SEAMEO RII

bidding processes for pre-identified projects. The winner is selected on the basis of criteria established by the agency for whom the work is to be performed.

Many topics were covered including, an overview of the proposal design and the core elements of a successful proposal. The workshop participants were divided into 5 or 6 groups and they had ample opportunities to do group work. They learned how to:

- 1) demonstrate their ability to undertake a project by stating past experience;
- 2) develop a work plan; and
- 3) produce a timeline of activities, called the project methodology.



Participants working at a table.



centre- Deputy Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Associate Professor, Songkram Luangtongkum, presenting certificate to participant.



Participant giving presentation.

The detailed work plan included project team member profiles, the assigning of the team members to activities, and a time schedule of how long it would take the personnel to complete each activity and the complete project. Each group presented their information, and afterwards questions were raised to which the participants or Mr. Pearson answered.

The participants received Certificates of Attendance at the closing ceremonies from Associate Professor Songkram Luangtongkum at the first session and from Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, Advisor to the Permanent Secretary of the MUA, at the second session. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the workshop and they felt that they developed a basic knowledge of project proposal writing for bidding.



Gregory Pearson, facilitator, Senior Advisor on Policy University Affairs, Thailand Suwanawongse, and participants.



from left- Mr. Gregory Pearson, Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Dr. Sumate Yamnoon presenting certificate to participant.

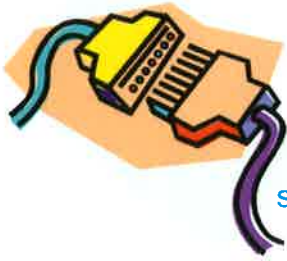


Dr. Sumate Yamnoon presenting certificate to participant.

Dr. Sumate Yamnoon, at the Closing Ceremony of the second session, expressed his view that this was a very important workshop as it gave valuable training and transferred knowledge in proposal writing. He hoped the participants, upon returning to their universities, would share the knowledge they gained with their colleagues. Also, he hoped that in the future there would be more workshops like this one and that Thailand would become an international centre for training, conferences, meetings, etc. in the region. He then thanked Mr. Gregory Pearson for doing such a fine job and Dr. Padoongchart and the SEAMEO RIHED staff for organising the workshop.



Presenting workplan.



Regional Workshop on Simulation for DC-DC Converters

1 – 8 May 2002

sponsored by: the French Government and organised by the Thai-French Innovation Centre (TFIC) and SEAMEO RIHED

At the Opening Ceremony of the Regional Workshop on Simulation for DC-DC Converters, Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director of SEAMEO RIHED, welcomed the dignitaries and distinguished participants, and thanked the French Government for the financial and technical support it gave RIHED to organise this workshop and the previous workshops held in 2001 and in 2000. Then, Mr. Panarit Sethakul, Director of TFIC, explained TFIC's role in academic services, industry and research and development. Dr. Jean-Pierre Delsol, speaking on behalf of the Regional Cooperation Office, French Embassy, stated that the workshop brings together French and Southeast Asian institutions in the field of engineering.



Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, welcoming the distinguished guests and participants.



left- Assistant Professor Watana Pinsem, Vice President for Administration, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok, presenting a token of thanks to Professor Bernard Davat, course facilitator from Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine, France.

Professor Dr. Teravuti Boonyasopon, President of King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok, remarked that the workshop was an exciting opportunity for SEAMEO RIHED, TFIC and the French Embassy to work together again. He said that the first regional workshop on "Industrial Applications of Control Technology: Mechatronics" was held on 18 - 31 May 2000, and demonstrated a wide scope of different disciplines, i.e. mechanics, electronics, electricity, computer science that are involved in the mechatronics systems. As for the second regional workshop on "Simulation for Motor Control," held on 30 April - 4 May 2001, it focused on mechatronics components, namely the behaviour of motor control and small motors. For this third workshop on "Simulation for Direct Current - Direct Current (DC-DC) Converters," the contents were the details of key components of small motors with mechatronics systems.

The participants spent time on practical applications using computer modeling and simulation tools, such as Matlab-Simulink. The topics covered were: an introduction to DC-DC converters, Switch-Mode DC supplies, Resonant converters, the design of particular converters and realisation. Each topic included a theory followed by simulation. There were 31 participants, 9 international and 22 Thai, from SEAMEO member countries attending the six-day course.

The objectives of this Regional Workshop were to enable the participants to: 1) simulate different circuits topologies for converters; 2) design DC-DC converters; and 3) transfer knowledge, which can be used by the participants in their universities.

At the Certificate Awarding Ceremony Professor Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn, Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Thailand, congratulated the participants for completing the course and encouraged them to apply their knowledge to their universities.

The representative of the participants thanked TFIC, King Mongkut's Institute of Technology, the French Embassy, Professors Davat and Pierfederici, and SEAMEO RIHED. He said the workshop was a success because the participants developed a better understanding of simulation for DC-DC Converters, and it gave them an opportunity to interact with one another.



sitting 4th from left- Dr. Voradej Chandarasorn, Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Thailand with distinguished guests, participants and RIHED staff.



Task Force Workshop

“Tourism Programme at a Distance and On-line for GMS”

29 - 31 May 2002

Co-organised by: UNESCO Bangkok, Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU)

Nonthaburi, Thailand and SEAMEO RIHED



left- Professor Wang Yibing, UNESCO Bangkok, Dr. Tong-In Wongsothorn, President Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) Bangkok and Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director SEAMEO RIHED.

The Task Workshop on “Tourism Programme at a Distance and On-line for GMS” followed up the previous “Expert Meeting on Formulation of Pilot Project for GMS Tourism Programme at a Distance and On-line” in January 2002, and the initial Sub-regional Workshop on the “Feasibility Study for Establishment of Greater Mekong Sub-region Virtual University (GMSVU)” in August 2001. The workshop was attended by representatives of participating universities from Cambodia, China, Laos, Vietnam, and Thailand, and delegates from the French

Embassy, Asia Development Bank (ADB), Distance Learning Foundation (DLF), Pacific Asia Travel Association (PATA), Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), and the Agency for Coordinating Mekong Tourism Activities (AMTA).

Dr. Keith Syers, from Naresuan University, gave a presentation on the Development of an On-line International MSc Programme in Biodiversity, Conservation and Ecotourism for Thailand and the GMS. This is an on-line MSc two-year programme that was developed as a joint project between Naresuan University and the University of Newcastle, England, and it will start in September 2002.

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Vipa Jaroenpuntaruk of STOU explained how traditional print media, satellite and computer based media could possibly be used to support GMS learning. Assoc. Prof. Pimonjan Namwat, Vice-President for Operations at STOU, chaired the discussion on the existing programmes and the new programme proposed by STOU. Extensive discussions took place on the proposed target groups of the programme, and it was agreed that the target groups would be: policy makers, government officials in tourism-related areas, key players in the GMS tourism industry, managers and supervisors in the tourism industry and tour guides.

The participants widely discussed course structure, and they decided that there would be a core course entitled “Tourism in GMS,” which would be comprised of six modules. Responsibility for producing the various modules of the core course would be shared amongst participating universities. On closing the workshop, all the participants expressed their appreciation to UNESCO and SEAMEO RIHED for organising the workshop and to STOU for their efforts in hosting the event.



Management

Quality Assurance in Higher Education Institutions: Present and Future Challenges

by Thaweesil Koolnapadol

Quality and quality assurance have become key issues for higher education systems in many countries. Governments use quality assurance as a tool for budget allocation or management control. The limitation of resources and budgeting is the driving factor of the establishment of the quality system, in addition to international economic competition. The funding crisis and the pressure of the competitive market have forced university or higher education institutions to reduce the subject load, lower entry standards and shorten time frames (Smith and Frankland, 2002). Quality assurance is part of the feedback mechanism of higher education systems for enhancing efficiency and effectiveness.



The objectives of developing the quality systems in higher education institutions are as follows:

1. To create confidence and acceptance by stakeholders within higher education institutions and outside.
2. To have accountability to the public sector from higher education institutions.
3. To create and provide useful information.
4. To enhance potentials in order to develop higher education institutions and the external environment.

The key issues of quality assurance consist of the following:

1. Quality control
2. Quality audit
3. Quality assessment or Quality evaluation
4. Quality accreditation

Quality assurance systems in most countries are based on the 'four-stage model' of external evaluation or assessment, i.e., (a) a co-ordinating agency, (b) submission of a self-evaluation report, (c) a peer visit and (d) a public report. These stages direct the activities to be carried out by higher education institutions. At the present time, quality assurance is challenged to provide transparency across all higher education institutions, not only at the national level, but also at the international level because of increasing competition.

Finally, the most important factor of quality assurance systems is the learning that takes place by organisations and individuals. Routinisation and bureaucratisation are dangers that face the organisations and individuals (Verkleij and Westerheijden, 2001), so quality assurance systems need to be designed by people who understand the importance of learning and change.

Upcoming Events



Training Course for SEA Officials in Quality Assurance for Higher Education, 27 August - 1 November, 2002, the Netherlands



Second International Forum on Education Reform, 2 - 5 September, 2002, Thailand



SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board Meeting, 9 - 11 September, 2002, Myanmar



International Conference on Globalisation and Localisation Enmeshed: Searching for a Balance in Education, 18 - 21 November, 2002, Thailand



Regional Seminar on Teachers and Teacher Education, 6 - 7 December, 2002, Thailand

For more information, contact: Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director
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