



SEAMEO RIHED BULLETIN

ISSN 0859-9084

MAY 2004

39th SEAMEO Council Conference

1 - 4 March 2004,
The Empire Hotel, Brunei Darussalam



Regional Conference/Workshop on Manpower Planning in Education, Science and Technology: A Foresight Approach

6 - 7 January 2004,
Siam City Hotel, Bangkok

The 12th Training Course on Thai University Administrators Development

8 March - 12 April 2004,
The Twin Towers Hotel, Bangkok



Regional Workshop on Electrical Motor Design and Actuators

26-30 April 2004
Thai-French Innovation Centre,
KMITNB, Bangkok



A visit by Mr. Tran Tuan Vu, Administrative Officer of SEAMEO RETRAC on 12 February 2004 in order to observe and undergo an in-service training in administrative work.

SEAMEO INNOTECH Regional Forum on School-Community Partnerships for Educational Quality Improvement

9 – 11 February 2004, SEAMEO INNOTECH, the Philippines

Over the course of this forum, experts from SEAMEO member countries convened to explore how schools can effectively engage communities in the pursuit of quality education. The question at hand is this: how can such partnerships invoke more meaningful involvement by the communities? Through paper presentations and a visit to the Kiddie Pamana Project site, participants shared their experiences of school-community partnerships as well as observed one such partnership at work. The knowledge gained from these activities was applied to envisioning a practical model that synthesizes and sustains school-community collaborations.



Assoc. Prof. Iwata Yasuyuki from Tokyo Gakugei University, Japan visits SEAMEO RIHED as part of his research study funded by the Japanese Government on Autonomous Universities in Thailand.

The 3rd International Day of Dali University

9 -12 April 2004, Dali University, Yunnan, China



Dr. Praphon Jearakul, a SEAMEO RIHED consultant attends this international event where he delivers a speech on behalf of SEAMEO RIHED at the opening ceremony and lectures on Thai Higher Education to university staff and students.



The Centre Director and staff extend a warm welcome to Ms. Annalea Sordi, the new intern from Canada. She will be with RIHED for six months and the staff is looking forward to working with her.

International Programme on Higher Graduate Diploma in Higher Education Management

Director of SEAMEO RIHED welcomes the participants to the HGDP Programme at SEAMEO RIHED and lectures on the topic of "Problems of Higher Education in Developing Countries" on 7 April 2004.





The 26th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting 16-18 December 2003, Amari Watergate Hotel, Bangkok

This year's SEAMEO High Officials Meeting saw delegates from Thailand and abroad gather in Bangkok with one common purpose in mind: to discuss, reflect upon, and envision current and future projects in the name of excellence in education. Members of diplomatic corps and international organizations participated in the meeting's events along with the high officials of SEAMEO member, associate, and affiliate countries.



Throughout the meeting, a diverse selection of ongoing SEAMEO projects was presented. SEAMEO representatives emphasized the following: Regional Cooperation on Quality and Equity in Education, Regional Schools Internet Project, the Asean Award Project, Project CAE e-Learn, ICT and HIV/AIDS Preventative Education in the Cross-Border Areas of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS), the Nuffic Fellowships on Quality Assurance, the French Speaking Competition, Project EQUIP, and SEAMEO-France Education Quality Improvement Programme in Southeast Asia.

To bring further insights to the meeting, participants deliberated on the future direction of SEAMEO centres. Proposals for future SEAMEO programmes and projects included the SEAMEO VOCTECH International Computer Driving License (ICDL) Authorized Test Centre, Transforming Schools into Learning Centres, Strengthening ICT in Schools and a Schoolnet Project in an ASEAN Setting and, lastly, the Regional Consultation Meeting on Value-Based Water Education.

The International Seminar on Local Responses to Global Challenges: Integrating Local Wisdom in Education for Community Development

12-14 February 2004, Dusit Thani Resort, Chiang Rai

As alluded by the conference title, discussions were premised upon the importance of local wisdom in educating society's people. It is the people who will then use this valuable knowledge for the social and economic benefit of the nation. Thus, in educating a populace, we are empowering a nation with the wisdom required to achieve national development.

This conference responded to the complex challenges of globalisation, specifically in ways that promote policy and programme development informed by local wisdom. Participants debated policy issues, exchanged national and institutional experiences, and drafted recommendations for actions that would encourage and sustain the existence of local wisdom for generations to come.

Together, policy-makers, researchers, and practitioners of the educational, cultural, and development sectors designed systems, methods, and practices that synthesised local wisdom and education in the name of development and peace.





The 39th SEAMEO Council Conference

1 - 4 March 2004,
The Empire Hotel, Brunei Darussalam



His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien graces us with his presence at the Opening Ceremony of the 39th SEAMEO Council Conference on 1 March 2004.

that future initiatives would be pursued with even greater vigour, effectiveness, and dynamism. After wishing the attendees a productive conference, His Majesty presented the keynote address. According to His Majesty, the new globalised world community poses many challenges to long term security. As a leading organisation in social development, His Majesty challenged

SEAMEO to contribute toward a stable, healthy and, above all, peaceful global society. He alluded to the idea that through educational policy and programming, SEAMEO can facilitate a culture based upon understanding, inclusiveness, and tolerance. And, thus, inspiration set the tone of the event.

During the remainder of the conference, plenary sessions, an awards presentation, and the announcement of next year's Council Conference host occurred.



Dr. Adisai Potaramik, Minister of Education delivers a statement from Thailand

The paper presented by H.E. Edilberto C. de Jesus envisioned "strategies of convergence" whereby SEAMEO centres would further collaborate with other institutions and communities in the pursuit of quality education.

Finally, eight SEAMEO staff were awarded testimonial plaques for their outstanding service, dedication, and contributions made over the years. It was a celebratory end to the event. Looking ahead to 2005, the **40th SEAMEO Council Conference** will take place in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

On 1 March 2004, His Excellency Edilberto C. de Jesus, Secretary of Education, the Philippines and concurrent SEAMEO Council President and His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah ibni Al-Marhum Sultan Haji Omar 'Ali Saifuddien Sa'adul Khairi Waddien welcomed 120 participants to the 39th SEAMEO Council Conference. His Excellency opened the event with gratitude for his fellow ministers' support, hospitality, and counsel extended to him during his post. In light of SEAMEO's response to recent world events such as the SARS epidemic and terrorist threats, he was confident



Ten Ministers of Education representing the SEAMEO member countries



At RIHED's exhibit booth, during the Opening Ceremony: Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director, welcomes his Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Muizzaddin Waddaulah of Brunei Darussalam.



Regional Conference/Workshop on Manpower Planning in Education, Science and Technology: A Foresight Approach

6-7 January 2004, Siam City Hotel, Bangkok



Centre Director at the Opening Ceremony



Group Photo at the Opening Ceremony



In the Conference Room

To ring in the new year sixty participants from the Asia-Pacific region gathered in Bangkok for the Regional Conference/Workshop on Manpower Planning in Education, Science and Technology: A Foresight Approach. The attendees were experts in organisational development of their respective countries, namely, senior administrators, policy planners, strategists, and professors. Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director of RIHED, officially opened the event on an inspiring note. He cited the foresight approach to manpower planning as a useful method to aide professional development and, thus, encouraged those in attendance to embrace the opportunity to learn its fundamental characteristics and tools. Under the facilitation of Professor James (Jim) Allen Dator, Director of the Hawaii Research Center for Future Studies, Social Science Research Institute, University of Hawaii, U.S.A., participants partook in sessions dedicated to strategic planning for the future.

Following a lecture on the fundamentals of the foresight approach, Prof. Dator explained the process of applying it to manpower planning. The continuous process involved creating a strategic plan on the basis of vision, organising a futures office that scans for trends and emerging issues, envisioning potential scenarios to guide action and, finally, proposing policies and actions to appropriate officers.

With this knowledge gained, participants engaged in a series of hands-on workshops. Together, they



Lead Facilitator, Prof. James (Jim) Allen Dator

identified the emerging issues facing their nations' planning framework in science, technology, education, and the social sciences. In anticipating the future and, in turn, identifying potential events they used the Probability-Impact Matrix in their strategic planning. Lastly, they created probable scenarios that placed such foresight techniques in the context of their own organisational planning. All in all, the conference activities provided fodder for enrichment, creativity, and forward thinking. It was a great success!



The 12th Training Course on Thai University Administrators Development



8 March - 9 April 2004, The Twin Towers Hotel, Bangkok



At the Opening Ceremony

Fifty university administrators, keen to enhance their knowledge, skills, and ethics in their administrative roles, participated in this month long training course in Bangkok. To place the course in context, the session began with the keynote speech, "Policy of Higher Education Administration in Thailand" delivered by Dr. Jiranee Tantiratanavong, Deputy Secretary General, Commission on Higher Education, Thailand.



RIHED Director introduces the course description

Participants engaged in a variety of enriching activities. They attended lectures presented by a diverse panel of higher education experts from the government and private sectors. Among the subjects discussed were "E-education" and "International Cooperation Strategy" in higher education. In the name of "active learning," participants partook in workshops. They debated current issues and presented topics based on their own experiences in the field. Lastly, to gain an international perspective, they observed high level administrators at the East-West Centre, the University of Hawaii, the University of Tokyo, and the Tokyo University of Technology.



Group Photo at the Certificate Awarding Ceremony

Following the event's conclusion, a consensus was reached among participating administrators: this course was highly valuable and worthwhile indeed. Having successfully completed the training, they were better equipped to facilitate their respective work places by being proactive in light of future challenges.



Prof. Dr. Terance W. Bigalke, Director and Dean of the Education Program, East-West Center briefs 50 participants and 7 officers from Commission on Higher Education and SEAMEO RIHED



Prof. Peter A. J. Englert, Chancellor of the University of Hawaii, welcomes all participants



Prof. Komiya Hiroshi, Executive Vice-President of the University of Tokyo briefs the participants.

Welcoming of Prof. Dr. Hideo Aiso, President of the Tokyo University of Technology





Regional Workshop on Electrical Motor Design and Actuators

26-30 April 2004, Thai-French Innovation Centre, KMITNB, Bangkok



At the Opening Ceremony

Considering the glowing praise offered by the attendees, this year's engineering workshop, a joint effort between RIHED and the Thai-French Innovation Centre (TFIC), was a resounding success. Notably, the event brought together 40 representatives from all 10 SEAMEO member countries. In the spirit of international collaboration, delegates from the French Embassy in Thailand, Dr. Patrick Quidel, Regional Counselor for Cooperation and Cultural Action and his

Assistant, Ms. Carole Enguehard extended their support on behalf of the event sponsor, the French Government.



Group photo of
all delegates and participants

During the workshop sessions, participants attended lectures and took part in workshops. Guest instructors, Prof. Bernard Davat and Dr. Nouredine Takorabet of Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine as well as Archan Panarit Sethakul, Director and Dr. Jean-Pierre Delsol, Deputy Director of TFIC, successfully created an enjoyable yet enriching learning environment. In celebration, a "Certificate Awarding Ceremony" was held on 30 April 2004. The closing address made by Dr. Chantavit Sujatanond, Assistant Secretary-General, Commission on Higher Education, Thailand was most memorable:



In the training room

"Judging by the positive feedback, I gather that the workshop was a prevailing success. However, the measure of its success lies in future outcomes. If this workshop did, in fact, achieve its main objective, the following will happen: Year after year, we will work together with our colleagues from other parts of the world. And for what purpose, you ask? So that we may fully utilise technology in the name of professional development."

Following the awards presentation, the event literally ended on a high note: karaoke! Everyone, from delegates to workshop organisers and participants enjoyed the hilarious antics of their colleagues. Who knew that administrators and engineers could sing? Needless to say, a fun time was had by all.



Certificate Awarding Ceremony



The New Intern from Canada Annalea Sordi: A Day in the Life of a Gypsy

Sawadee kha!

My name is Annalea Sordi, "Anna" for short, and I am the new intern at SEAMEO RIHED.

Thrilled, excited, elated: these are but a few words that express how happy I am to work with everyone at RIHED. During this internship, I look forward to new challenges that may develop my skills. I feel especially honoured to learn about the Thai culture, its people, language, and education system. The opportunity to work abroad in Bangkok is a privilege indeed. I am excited by the possibilities. The future looks brighter than ever!

Here are a few things about myself. I was born and raised in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. Caution: the next information may shock you. My city boasts winter temperatures of 40 degrees below zero. We Canadians are a resilient kind! To avoid the chilly winters, my family and I began traveling the world prior to my first birthday. Our first destination: the tropical climate of Southeast Asia. My parents have fond memories of me chasing after geckos in Bali, Indonesia. Needless to say, this part of the world felt like "home" to me at a very early age.

And thus began my life of globetrotting, hence the title of this biography. In my family we jokingly say, "We, Sordi's, are like gypsies. Traveling is like the air that we breathe. It is necessary for us to live." Whether trekking through lush jungles or exploring ancient caves, I am always searching for new experiences to keep me inspired. To mark the second millenium I traveled solo or, should I say, "adventured," through Central America, namely Belize and Guatemala. Last summer, with my degree in hand, the wind blew me across the ocean to Europe. For six months I explored the landscapes of Scotland, England, France, the Netherlands, Belgium, Spain, Italy, Greece, and Turkey. My most memorable times were spent with the local people, living as they do, eating together and engaging in conversation, to get a sense of what their culture was really like.

Once my term at RIHED has concluded, I move from one metropolis to another in pursuit of my Master's degree this autumn. In a whirlwind, I fly from Bangkok to either London or Toronto and commence my studies shortly thereafter. If one thing in my life is certain, it is this: I will continue in the ways of the gypsy.

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

**International Seminar on
University Admissions:
Insights and Issues**
24-25 May 2004

**SEAMEO-UNESCO Education
Congress and Expo**
27-29 May 2004

**The GMS
Virtual University - IT**
18-19 June 2004

For more information, please contact: Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director. If you wish to contribute any comments or information, please contact Dr. Praphon Jearakul and Ms. Annalea Sordi, editors.

Bulletin Staff: Mrs. Wachareeporn Nilratt, Mr. Nopporn Kongtharat, Mrs. Pichaya Pansawat, and Mr. Preecha Angthong.

SEAMEO Regional Centre for Higher Education and Development (RIHED)

- 5th floor, Commission on Higher Education Building,
328 Sri Ayutthaya Road, Rajthwee, Bangkok 10400 THAILAND
Tel: (66) 0-2644 9856-63, 0-2644 5591, Fax: (66) 0-2644 5421,
E-mail: rihed@seameo.org

Visit the RIHED Website - www.rihed.seameo.org