The 38th SEAMEO Council Conference
4 - 7 March 2003, at Makati Shangri-La Hotel, the Philippines

A Visit from HE Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, SEAMEO Council President and Minister of Education, Thailand

University Staff Training: Career Advisory Services Higher Education Project
17 February - 6 March 2003, Bangkok

Regional Workshop on Harmonics Cancellation
21 - 26 April 2003, at Thai-French Innovation Centre
On 12 December 2002, RIHED Director, and the representatives from SEAMEO Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok, AUN, ASAHIHL, the Council of Rajabhat Institute Presidents and the Association of Private Higher Education Institutions of Thailand met at the SEAMEO RIHED Office to comment on the project proposal “Implementation of Regional Quality Assurance Policy in Southeast Asian Higher Education” presented by the participants who completed the “Training for SEA Officials on Quality Assurance for Higher Education” course in the Netherlands.

Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director presenting a souvenir to Mr. Li Xiang, Vice-President of Dali College when the 14 delegates from Dali College visited RIHED on 3 December 2002.

“E-learning and Higher Education Development” organised by British Council Thailand, the Council of University Presidents of Thailand, Chiang Mai University and Ministry of University Affairs Thailand and co-sponsored by SEAMEO RIHED on 13-14 January 2003, Rydges Hotel, Chiang Mai.

Group photo of RIHED Director and 5 Laotian Officers who visited RIHED on 24 April 2003 under the project of Study Visit on Open Learning and Distance Education arranged by UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMOLEC.

Mr. Russel Boris, Manager of International Education at Medicine Hat College Canada, visited RIHED to follow up on the work of Ms. Alyssa Mellon, the new intern from Canada on 29 April 2003.
A Visit from HE Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, SEAMEO Council President and Minister of Education, Thailand

20 January 2003, SEAMEO RIHED Office

On 20 January 2003, SEAMEO RIHED was honoured by the visit of H.E. Mr. Pongpol Adireksarn, Thailand’s Minister of Education and SEAMEO Council President and his party. He was welcomed by Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandarasom, the Permanent Secretary for University Affairs and Chairperson of SEAMEO RIHED Governing Board, and Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, SEAMEO RIHED Director and his staff.

During his visit, the Minister stated that SEAMEO RIHED should be a centre for research and that results should be distributed to educators and students around the world. He recommended that RIHED conduct a study on “University Admission in Southeast Asian Countries”, with the aim of finding the best university admission system suitable for the countries in the SEAMEO region. He added that a common system would be beneficial for student exchanges in SEA Countries. In addition, the Minister asked that RIHED compile a database of experts in all fields of higher education in all SEA countries.

Presently, RIHED has nearly finished the study of “University Admission in Southeast Asian Countries” and the Centre is planning to organise a “Regional Seminar on University Admission” by the end of 2003. On the other hand, RIHED has created two databases of scholars: one in higher education field and the other in the economics field which is still in progress.
REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON HARMONICS CANCELLATION
21 - 26 April 2003, at the Thai-French Innovation Centre,
King Mongkut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok, Thailand

Twenty-nine bright and eager participants from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and Vietnam gathered in Bangkok last month to participate in the Regional Workshop on Harmonics Cancellation. The Thai-French Innovation Centre (TFIC) and SEAMEO RIHED jointly organised and hosted the workshop and it was made possible through the generous sponsorship of the French government. The main objectives of the six-day engineering workshop (21-26 April) were to enhance participants' knowledge on harmonics in the electrical power system, the source of harmonics, their effects and the various methods to cancel harmonics in the power system.

At the opening ceremony participants were welcome by Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director of SEAMEO RIHED followed by remarks from Prof. Dr. Teravut Boonyasopon, President of King Mongut's Institute of Technology North Bangkok and Dr. Jean-Pierre Delsol, Deputy Director of TFIC speaking on behalf of the Regional Cooperation Office, French Embassy. Much gratitude was expressed toward the French government for their continued technical and financial support of the workshop.

During the demanding week, experts from both private and public institutions joined together to deliver very informative and stimulating lectures. Professor Bernard Davat came from the Institut National Polytechnique de Lorraine in France. From King Mongut's Institute of Technology, came the Director of TFIC, Mr. Panarit Sethakul, the Deputy Director of the Electricity-Electronic and Computer Department at TFIC, Dr. Siripan Thongchai and the Dean of Graduate College, Assistant Professor Dr. Viboond Chunkag. Lecturers from the private sector included Mr. Etienne Guerou, the Managing Director of MGE, UPS System and Mr. Thierry Le Guillou from the Power Factor Correction and Harmonics Filtering of Schneider Electric Company, France.

The workshop concluded with the certificate awarding ceremony held on Friday 26 April at the Twin Towers Hotel. The hard work of the participants, lecturers, organisers and sponsors was recognised and the highlight of the evening was the speech presented by the Permanent Secretary for University Affairs, Prof. Dr. Voradej Chandraasorn. In his address Prof. Dr. Voradej stressed the importance of "creating an impact for this workshop" by applying the newly acquired information gained at the workshop in the home institutions of the participants.
The 38th SEAMEO Council Conference was held on 5 to 7 March 2003 at the Makati Shangri-La Hotel in Makati City, the Philippines. The Department of Education, the Philippines and the SEAMEO Secretariat were the joint organisers of this event. Council Members from each SEAMEO Member Country were present along with representatives from three Associate Member Countries (Australia, Canada and France). Observers from ten different international organisations and from the governments of Japan and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste were also in attendance. The Secretary of Education, the Philippines, H.E. Dr. Edilberto de Jesus was elected the new President of the SEAMEO Council and Chairperson of the 38th SEAMEO Council Conference.

The guest of honour and keynote speaker was H.E. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, President of the Republic of the Philippines. In her speech, which was delivered by Executive Secretary, Alberto Romulo on her behalf, President Macapagal stressed the need to continue to “articulate educational policies” that are in the best interest of the Southeast Asian region.

During the conference, individual SEAMEO units delivered reports on their accomplishments and also discussed some of their issues and problems. The SEAMEO Member and Associate Member Countries provided statements on their contributions and the FY2003/2004 to FY2005/2006 Consolidated Three-Year Budgets were approved. Other main topics on the agenda included discussion of the SEAMEO Strategic Marketing Plan and the implementation of SEAMEO Units’ programmes and projects.

The Policy Forum for this year’s conference centred on the theme of “Engaging Communities in Delivering Quality Education.” The goal of the Policy Forum was to give Ministers of Education and others time to share experiences, views and strategies in educational initiatives. The Policy Forum was also a time to review the experiences of different countries who employ community involvement and participation in education. The resource person for the forum was the President of the International Institute for Rural Reconstruction (IIRR).

At the conclusion of the 38th SEAMEO Council Conference, the Head of the delegation from Brunei Darussalam informed the Conference that the 39th Council would be hosted in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.
University Staff Training: Career Advisory Services
Higher Education Project

17 February - 6 March 2003, at the First Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

From left - Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, Director of SEAMEO RIHED; Dr. Phung Khac Binh, Director of Students' Affairs Department, Ministry of Education and Training, Vietnam; and Dr. Arief S Sadiman, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat addressing the participants.

SEAMEO RIHED and SEAMEO Secretariat were hosts to fifty University Career Advisory Services staff from Vietnam who travelled to Bangkok to receive three weeks of training from 17 February to 6 March 2003. This group was the first of three batches to receive the Career Advisory Services Training provided by the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO RIHED, Strategic Consulting Group, and Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC).

The training programme served as a forum for participants to exchange and share strategies on how to improve career advisory services in their institutions. During the training, participants learned how to establish linkages with employers and how to match student skills with employer demands. Participants also gained knowledge on creating job and employer databases and were trained on how to improve resume writing and job search skills.

Upon completion of the training, participants were able to return to their home institutions with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop career advisory service programmes suitable for their universities.

In the training room
Certificate Awarding Ceremony
RIHED welcomes Alyssa Mellon, the new Intern from Canada. She will be with the Centre for six months and the staff is looking forward to working with her. The following is a brief background provided by Alyssa and her first impression of Bangkok.

Fast flowing traffic filling the streets, the hustle and bustle of people crowding the winding sidewalks, delicious aromas filling the air as street vendors prepare their food. These are only a few of my observations as I walk to work enjoying the intense heat of a summer day in Bangkok. My first impression of Bangkok is that it is a vibrant and energetic city, full of dynamic, friendly and diverse people. With so much to see and do, I know that living in Bangkok will be a very interesting and gainful experience.

My name is Alyssa Mellon and I am from the small town of Okotoks, Alberta, Canada. After completing my BSS in Political Science at the University of Ottawa in Ontario, Canada, I applied to the Youth International Internship Program, sponsored by the Canadian government and operated by Medicine Hat College. I was very happy to be selected as one of the three interns working for SEAMEO and for the next six months I will be working with the wonderful staff at RIHED.

I am very excited about my work at RIHED and I look forward to exploring Thailand and to learning as much as I can about Thai history, culture and language!
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Workshop on Long-range Planning for Higher Education

Meeting of the Ministers Responsible for Higher Education in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) Countries

Regional Workshop on Restructuring Higher Education Institutions in Selected Asian Countries

Follow up Workshop on Quality Assurance in Higher Education

Workshop for the Establishment of the Greater Mekong Sub-regional Virtual University

Workshop on ICT for GMS Virtual University

For more information, please contact: Dr. Padoongchart Suwanawongse, RIHED Director. If you wish to contribute any comments or information, please contact Dr. Praphon Jearakul, and Ms. Alyssa Mellon, Editors.
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