



Country-Level Workshop in Cambodia on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility

9-10 October 2015 | Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap, Cambodia

Hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia

Concept Paper

1. Rational and Background

Technical and vocational education and training (TVET) has been identified as a priority area in the Southeast Asian region. This development came from the consultations held in 2012 initiated by the SEAMEO and the ADB (Asian Development Bank) under the SEAMEO College Project. After two years, the Southeast Asian education ministers affirmed the importance of TVET by naming it as one of the Post-2015 seven priority areas of SEAMEO in September 2014 during the Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers (SDEM).

As the form of education that responds to poverty reduction, economic recovery and sustainable development, TVET has received greater attention from policy makers, particularly in the quest for economic integration into ASEAN at the year-end of 2015.

In the context of ASEAN integration; the perceived mobility of skilled workers in the region; and the need to improve the quality of TVET in Southeast Asia, SEAMEO - with funding from the Office of the Vocational Education Commission, an agency within the Ministry of Education, Thailand- organised the **1st High Officials Meeting (HOM) on SEA-TVET**. This was held under the theme: *“Working Together towards Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia”*. The event took place 24-26 August 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand.

Meeting delegates discussed policy directions for the development and collaboration of TVET in Southeast Asia and they identified a strategic framework and priority areas of development, especially regarding the harmonisation and internationalisation of TVET. The **“Chiang Mai Joint Statement on Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia”** was officially announced at this meeting and this declaration was based on regional policy directions that emerged from the TVET High Officials Round Table Meeting. Details of the Chiang Mai Joint Statement are in **Appendix I**.

Following on from the HOM on SEA-TVET, SEAMEO, in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture (Republic of Indonesia) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), organised the **SEA TVET-DAAD Workshop** under the theme *“Internationalization and Harmonization of TVET in Southeast Asia”*. This event was held 10-12 September 2015 in Solo, Indonesia.

The SEA TVET–DAAD Workshop in Solo aimed to further develop regional strategies according to the Chiang Mai Joint Statement and expand collaboration on internationalisation and harmonisation by identifying practical mechanisms and comprehensive action plans among the following priority industrial sectors:

- 1) hospitality and tourism;
- 2) electronics, mechatronics, and manufacturing;
- 3) agriculture and fisheries;
- 4) construction/civil engineering; and
- 5) commerce (banking).

The workshop involved approximately 300 policy makers, TVET colleges/institutions and representatives from the industrial sector.

Following on from these two events, the **Country-level Workshops on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility** will be conducted over two days in each of the seven countries to collate the results from the previous TVET regional meetings. The seven Country-level Workshops will be taken place in Cambodia, Philippines, Thailand, Myanmar, Lao PDR, Malaysia and Vietnam and tentatively scheduled from October 2015 to March 2016. **Appendix II** provides tentative schedule of the Country-level Workshops in seven Southeast Asian countries.

The workshops at country level will also include discussions on mechanisms for pilot student and teacher exchanges and debates on continuous communication and networking among involved parties. Expected participants are officials from TVET institutions, industry representatives, SEAMEO officers and other relevant education officials. The workshop programme of each country will be customised according to the priority industry areas recommended by the host country.

These country-based workshops are expected to advance TVET harmonisation and mobility across Southeast Asia and beyond.

2. The First Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility in Cambodia

As hosted by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training of Cambodia, the 1st Country-level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility will be organised on 9-10 October 2015 (back-to-back with the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Policy Network on Education and Skills) at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

3. Objectives

- a) To inform on the result of the SEAMEO high-level meetings on TVET which may include:
 - a1) exploration of existing mutual recognition/harmonisation agreements and/or the potential for harmonisation of TVET in Southeast Asia;
 - a2) analysis of TVET national programs, institutions and frameworks in Southeast Asia; and
 - a3) issues and challenges on TVET, and others
- b) To identify specific actions and plans related to pilot student and teacher exchanges in three TVET priority areas:
 - b1) hospitality and tourism;
 - b2) agriculture and fisheries; and
 - b3) construction.
- c) To discuss the roles of parties involved in student and teacher exchanges including the industry sector, which will be leading to the formulation of the SEA-TVET Consortium
- d) To provide capacity building support to TVET officials and TVET institutions.

4. Host Organiser and Partners

Host Organisation: Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia

Regional Coordinators:

- Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization Secretariat (SEAMEO Secretariat)
- SEAMEO Regional Centre for Vocational and Technical Education and Training (SEAMEO VOCTECH), Brunei Darussalam
- SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMEO SEAMOLEC), Indonesia

5. **Theme:** SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility

6. **Venue and Schedule:** 9-10 October 2015 at the Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap, Cambodia.

7. Priority Areas for the Country-level Workshop in Cambodia

According to the “Chiang Mai Joint Statement on Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia”, announced at the HOM on SEA-TVET on 26 August 2015, Hospitality and Tourism is the first priority industry sector as a pilot for implementing regional harmonisation. Other priority industry sectors such as 1) Electronics, Mechatronics and Manufacturing; 2) Agriculture and Fishery; and 3) Construction will be implemented in the later stage (Chiang Mai Joint Statement, 2015).

Considering the country level, the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training has recommended the following three priority areas for harmonising and implementing teachers and student exchanges among the TVET institutions in Cambodia and with other participating TVET Institutions from other countries.

- a) Hospitality and tourism;
- b) Agriculture, and fisheries; and
- c) Construction/civil engineering.

8. Participants

The Country-level Workshop in Cambodia expects to be participated by 35-40 participants, including:

- a) Policy makers, directors/experts from leading TVET institutions in Cambodia.
- b) TVET institutions from other Southeast Asian countries (with a focus on the neighbouring countries of the host country).
- c) Representatives from industrial and private sector companies.
- d) Resource persons from SEAMEO Regional Centres.

9. Requirements for TVET Institutions

The proposed requirements for TVET institutions to be involved in the Country-level Workshop are as follows:

- a) The TVET institution is able to send at least five students abroad and receive five students from other Southeast Asian countries according to the priority areas as recommended by the Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia:
 - Hospitality and tourism;
 - Agriculture, and fisheries;
 - Construction/civil engineering.
- b) The TVET institution is able to identify at least five industrial companies which will be able to host the international students' internship (vocational and technical students from other Southeast Asian countries).
- c) The TVET institution is able to send/receive teachers for the teacher mobility programme according to the above three priority areas.

10. Sessions in the Programme

Friday, 9 October 2015:

- Opening Ceremony
- Session 1: Orientation on "Status of the Ongoing SEA-TVET Programme"
- Session 2: Panel Discussion on "Current Practices and Challenges of Internationalisation and Harmonisation of TVET in Southeast Asia"
- Session 3: Introduction of Group Discussion
- Session 4: Group Discussion on "Proposed Country Strategies and Action Plan"
In session 4, the participants will be grouped according to the priority industry/study areas as follows.
 - a) Hospitality and tourism;
 - b) Agriculture, and fisheries; and
 - c) Construction.
- Session 5: Group Presentation and Reflection
- Closing Session: Synthesis and the Way Forward and Closing Remarks

Saturday, 10 October 2015:

- Study Visit to Leading TVET colleges in Siem Reap
- Visit to Angkor Wat Temple

11. Expected Outputs:

- a) Proposed practical strategies and an action plan for harmonising and internationalising TVET among the participating TVET institutions for each priority area.
- b) Commitments of TVET institutions for operationalising the student/teacher exchanges or other collaborative activities/programmes.
- c) Commitment of TVET institutions and industrial companies to participate in the SEA-TVET Consortium.

- d) Guidelines on SEA-TVET Consortium, and student and teacher exchanges in TVET priority areas of study drafted.

12. Funding Support:

- a) The Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia will support the programme expenses such as meeting package, venue arrangement, administrative expenses, and domestic arrangement for the study visit programme.
- b) The travel expenses, accommodation and allowance of TVET Institutions from other countries should be supported by the respective Ministry/organization of the participating countries.
- c) Accommodation will be only funded to four participants from **Lao PDR** by the SEAMEO Secretariat (twin sharing) for 3 nights (8 to 11 October 2015).

13. Coordinators:

For additional information of this programme, please contact:

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Chiang Mai Joint Statement on Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia

PREAMBLE

1 We, high-level education officials responsible for technical and vocational education and training (TVET) and representing eight SEAMEO Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand) met in a High Officials Round Table Meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand on 25 August 2015 to determine policy directions of TVET development and collaboration in Southeast Asia, and identify strategic framework and priority areas of development especially on prospects of harmonisation and internationalisation of TVET.

2 The First High Officials Round Table Meeting on TVET in Southeast Asia is in pursuit of the directive of the education ministers of Southeast Asian countries that comprise the SEAMEO Council during the SEAMEO Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers held in September 2014 in Vientiane, Lao PDR which identified TVET as one of the seven Post-2015 and Post-Education for All priority areas of SEAMEO.

3 Furthermore, the High Officials Round Table Meeting on TVET in Southeast Asia is in support of recent global and regional declarations on the promotion and enhancement of TVET such as the Third International Congress on TVET which focused on “Quality Education and Skills Development for Sustainable Future” and was held in Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China in May 2012; and the Kuala Lumpur Declaration on “Making Skills Development Work for the Future” held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 3-5 August 2015.

4 Cognisant of the increasing integration in the world and in Southeast Asia and the efforts of governments to address labour market demand which will help bring about economic growth and social development, the importance of working together towards harmonisation and internationalisation of TVET is key to ensuring greater mobility and competitiveness, not only of single and individual countries of the region, but the entire Southeast Asia as a unified community.

AFFIRMATIONS

- 5 With the foregoing antecedents, we therefore recognise and affirm the following:
1. That TVET plays a fundamental role in preparing the labour force in Southeast Asia, and that the industry is an important driver of economic growth;
 2. That by synergising efforts of SEAMEO Member Countries on TVET, Southeast Asia can be more ready for ASEAN integration;

3. That there is a need for continuous and strategic discussion to help direct regional cooperation on TVET in Southeast Asia; and

4. That harmonisation and internationalisation of TVET is vital key to competency development and quality improvement of this sector in Southeast Asia.

AREAS AND STRATEGIES FOR COOPERATION

6 In support of precursor global and regional declarations on TVET and our foregoing affirmations, we therefore agree to the following:

1. Cooperate in the review and share the development of respective TVET national quality assurance and qualifications framework of SEAMEO Member Countries referring to the ASEAN Qualification Reference Framework (AQRF).
2. Establish SEA-TVET consortium as a mechanism for overseas student and staff exchange, which shall include industrial attachment and internship.
3. Agree that Hospitality and Tourism is the first priority industry sector as a pilot for implementing regional harmonisation. Other priority industry sectors such as 1) Electronics, Mechatronics, and Manufacturing; 2) Agriculture and Fishery; and 3) Construction will be implemented in the later stage.
4. Share knowledge, best practices, and resources, including experts, teaching and learning systems and materials, and equipment for enhancing cooperation to improve the quality TVET in Southeast Asia. Online TVET portal will be used as a platform to enhance information sharing. (<http://seatvet.seameo.org>)
5. Carry out TVET occupational mapping by priority industry sector and by geographical area in cooperation with industry and other agencies to narrow the gap between demand and supply for future labour force in the region.
6. Address several components, such as green TVET, technopreneurs, innovative practices in TVET, teacher education and training, and TVET for all as part of harmonisation and internationalisation of TVET initiatives in Southeast Asian region.
7. Mobilise stakeholders in a concerted effort to create strategies and share responsibilities for harmonisation of TVET.

Adopted on 26 August 2015 in Chiang Mai, Thailand
at High Officials Meeting on Southeast Asia Technical and
Vocational Education and Training (SEA-TVET)

organised by the Office of Vocational Education Commission,
Ministry of Education Thailand; SEAMEO, and British Council

**Tentative Schedule of the Seven Country-Level Workshops on
SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility**

October 2015- March 2016

Country	Tentative Schedule	Host Agency/Organization
1. Cambodia	9-10 October 2015 Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap Back to back with the OECD Southeast Asia Regional Policy Network on Education and Skills (7-8 October 2015) at the Sokha Angkor Resort, Siem Reap	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia
2. Thailand	26-28 November 2015 Bureau of Personnel Competency Development, Bangkok	The Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand
3. Myanmar	5-10 December 2015 (To be confirmed)	Ministry of Education, Myanmar
4. Lao PDR	14-15 December 2015 (To be confirmed) Back to back with the 3 rd Conference on Technical and Vocational Education and Training, Vientiane	Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR
5. Philippines	January 2016 (To be confirmed)	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines and SEAMEO SEARCA
6. Malaysia	February 2016 (To be confirmed)	Ministry of Education, Malaysia
7. Vietnam	March 2016 (To be confirmed)	To be confirmed