



## Country-Level Workshop in Myanmar on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility

4-5 December 2015 | Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute  
Yangon the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

*Hosted by the Department of Technical and Vocational Education,  
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

### Concept Paper

#### 1. Rationale 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 **1<sup>st</sup> 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 on 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 five 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.

Building on from these two events, the **Country-Level Workshops on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility** will be conducted over one-two days in each of the seven countries to collate the results from the previous TVET regional meetings and develop partnership and commitment which will lead toward harmonisation and internationalisation. 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 April 2016. **Appendix II** provides tentative schedule and priority industry/study areas of the Country-Level Workshops in seven Southeast Asian countries.

The workshops at country level will serve as a platform for establishing partnership and networking among the participating TVET institutions from the host country and other Southeast Asian countries.

The workshops will also explore collaborative mechanisms, action plans and commitments for piloting student and teacher exchanges and other joint activities as well as discuss on continuous communication and networking among involved parties. Expected participants are directors or representatives of TVET institutions from the host country and neighbouring countries, TVET experts and educators, TVET development agencies and SEAMEO officers. The workshop programme of each country will be customised according to the priority industry/study 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 Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility in Myanmar**

As a part of the country-level workshop series in seven countries, the Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility in Myanmar will be hosted by the Department of Technical and Vocational Education, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The workshop is co-organised by the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO VOCTECH, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC and Asian Development Bank (ADB).

### **3. Objectives of the Workshop**

- a) To inform on the result of the SEAMEO high-level meetings on TVET and regional development of TVET which will include:
  - i) exploration of existing mutual recognition/harmonisation agreements and/or the potential for harmonisation of TVET in Southeast Asia;
  - ii) analysis of TVET national programs, institutions and frameworks in Southeast Asia; and
  - iii) issues and challenges on TVET, and others.
- b) To explore and identify specific action plans and commitments related to pilot student and teacher exchanges and other collaborative activities according to the host country's priority study/industry areas.
- c) To establish networking platform among the TVET institutions and TVET partners, and discuss the roles of parties involved in student and teacher exchanges including the industry sector

- d) To provide capacity building support to TVET officials and TVET institutions.

#### 4. Host Organiser and Partners

**Host Organisation:** The Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Science and Technology, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

**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

**Partner:** Asian Development Bank (ADB)

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

6. **Venue and Schedule:** 4-5 December 2015, Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI), Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

#### 7. Priority Study/Industry Areas for the Country-Level Workshop in Myanmar

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).

The priority study/industry areas of Myanmar are as follows:

- a) Hospitality and Tourism
- b) Construction
- c) Agriculture and Fisheries

#### 8. Participants

The Country-Level Workshop in Myanmar expects to be participated by approximately 50 participants who are:

- a) TVET policy makers and experts from Ministry of Education and related government agencies from the host country
- b) Directors/representatives from TVET institutions in the host country
- c) Directors/representatives of TVET institutions from the following neighbouring countries of the host country:

- Brunei Darussalam: 1 TVET Institution
- Cambodia: 3 TVET Institutions
- Indonesia: 3-6 TVET Institutions
- Lao PDR: 3 TVET Institutions
- Malaysia: 3 TVET Institutions
- Thailand: 3-6 TVET Institutions

It is requested by the host country that the participating TVET institutions should provide the courses according to the priority areas as in point 7 with the certification level as follows:

- Certificate
- Diploma
- Skill Certificate (Pre-learning level)

d) Resource persons from SEAMEO Regional Centres and other development agencies.

## 9. Sessions in the Programme

### Friday, 4 December 2015:

- Opening Ceremony
- Session 1: Orientation on “Status of the On-going SEA-TVET Programme and Industry Needs”
- Session 2: Panel Discussion on “Sharing Experiences on Student and Teacher Exchange Programme: Current Practices and Challenges”
- Session 3: Introduction of Group Discussion
- Session 4: Group Discussion on “Networking, Proposed Joint Activities, and Framework of Cooperation”  
In session 4, the participants will be grouped according to the priority industry/study areas as follows.
  - Hospitality and Tourism
  - Construction
  - Agriculture and Fisheries
- Session 5: Reporting from the group agreement
- Closing Session: Synthesis and the Way Forward, and Closing Remarks

### Saturday, 5 December 2015:

- Study Visit to local TVET colleges in Yangon

## 10. Expected Outputs

- a) Proposed practical action plans for student and teacher exchange programme and other collaborative activities 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.

## 11. Funding Support

The funding support is based on cost-sharing basis among the participating countries as follows:

Organisations	Funding Support
Department of Technical and Vocational Education, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The host country shall support the programme expenses such as meeting package, venue arrangement, administrative expenses, and domestic arrangement for the study visit programme</li> </ul>
Participating Countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel expenses and accommodation of participating TVET institutions</li> </ul>
SEAMEO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodation (3 nights and twin sharing) for participants from Cambodia and Lao PDR</li> <li>Travel expenses of coordinators and staff</li> </ul>
ADB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Travel expenses of resource persons</li> </ul>

## 13. Coordinators:

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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

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

October 2015 - April 2016

<b>Country</b>	<b>Tentative Schedule</b>	<b>Host Agency/Organisation</b>	<b>Priority Industry/Study Areas, Identified by the Host Country</b>
1. Cambodia	9-10 October 2015 Borei Angkor Resort & Spa, Siem Reap <b>(Completed)</b>	Ministry of Labour and Vocational Training, Cambodia	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Agriculture and fisheries 3. Construction
2. Thailand	26-28 November 2015 Bangkok, Thailand <b>(Confirmed)</b>	The Office of Vocational Education Commission (OVEC), Ministry of Education, Thailand	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Electronics, mechatronics and manufacturing 3. Agriculture, and fisheries 4. Construction/civil engineering 5. Commerce and banking 6. Marine maritime(Recommended by OVEC)
3. Myanmar	4-5 December 2015 Yangon, Myanmar <b>(Confirmed)</b>	Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education, The Republic of the Union of Myanmar	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Construction 3. Agriculture and fisheries
4. Lao PDR	22-23 December 2015 Vientiane, Lao PDR <b>(Confirmed)</b>	Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Agriculture and fisheries 3. Electronics and mechatronics
6. Malaysia	February 2016 (To be confirmed)	Ministry of Education, Malaysia	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Electronics, mechatronics and manufacturing 3. Agriculture, and fisheries 4. Construction/civil engineering 5. Commerce (banking) 6. Aviation (Recommended by MOE, Malaysia)
7. Vietnam	2016 (To be advised the possibility)	To be confirmed	To be advised by the host country
5. Philippines	2016 (To be advised the possibility)	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), SEARCA Philippines and SEAMEO SEARCA	To be advised by the host country