



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

22-23 December 2015, New Rose Boutique Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

*Hosted by the Technical and Vocational Education Department (TVED),  
Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Lao PDR*

### 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. As a result, the **“Chiang Mai Joint Statement on Harmonisation and Internationalisation of TVET in Southeast Asia”**, including 4 priority industry areas were officially announced as the 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, the **SEA TVET-DAAD Workshop on “Internationalisation and Harmonisation of TVET in Southeast Asia”** was hosted by the Ministry of Education and Culture (Republic of Indonesia) and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) on 10-12 September 2015 in Solo, Indonesia. The workshop 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 priority industrial sectors. The workshop involved approximately 300 policy makers, TVET colleges/institutions and representatives from the industrial sector.

Building on from these two events, **the seven Country-Level Workshops on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility** are planned to 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 among the participating TVET institutions which will lead towards harmonisation and internationalisation.

With the support from the host countries, the seven Country-Level Workshops has been/will be taken place in Cambodia (9-10 Oct. 2015), Thailand (26-28 Nov. 2015), Myanmar (4-5 Dec. 2015), Lao PDR (22-23 Dec 2015), Malaysia (2016), Philippines (2016) and Vietnam (2016). **Appendix II** provides the schedule and priority industry/study areas as identified by the host 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/ principals 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 Lao PDR

- As a part of the country-level workshop series in seven countries, the Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility in Lao PDR will be hosted by **the Technical and Vocational Education Department (TVED), Ministry of Education and Sports (MOES), Lao PDR**. The workshop is co-organised by the SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO VOCTECH, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH.

## 3. Objectives of the Workshop

- a) To inform on the result of the SEAMEO high-level meetings on TVET and current regional development of TVET which will 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 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 involvement of industry sector
- d) To provide capacity building support to TVET officials and TVET institutions.

## 4. Host Organiser and Partners

**Host Organisation:** The Technical and Vocational Education Department, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR

**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)  
Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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

6. **Venue and Schedule:** 22-23 December 2015, New Rose Boutique Hotel, Vientiane, Lao PDR

## **7. Priority Study/Industry Areas for the Country-Level Workshop in Lao PDR**

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).

For the Country-Level Workshop in Lao PDR, the Technical and Vocational Education Department, Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR has identified the following priority industry/study areas for partnering with other TVET institutions from other Southeast Asian countries:

- a) Hospitality and tourism
- b) Agriculture and fisheries
- c) Electronics and mechatronics

## **8. Participants**

The Country-Level Workshop in Lao PDR expects to be participated by approximately 50-60 participants who are:

- a) TVET policy makers and experts from Ministry of Education and related government agencies from the host country
- b) Directors/Deputy Director from TVET institutions in the host country
- c) Resource persons from SEAMEO Regional Centres and other development agencies.
- d) Directors/Principals of TVET institutions from the following neighbouring countries of the host country:
  - Brunei Darussalam: 1 TVET Institution
  - Cambodia: 3-4 TVET Institutions
  - Indonesia: 3-6 TVET Institutions
  - Myanmar: 3-4 TVET Institutions
  - Thailand: 3-6 TVET Institutions
  - Vietnam: 3-4 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

## **9. Sessions in the Programme**

Tuesday, 22 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 Programmes”
- Session 3: Introduction of SEA-TVET Consortium and 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
- Agriculture and fisheries
- Electronics and mechatronics

- Session 5: Reporting from Group Discussions and Signing of the Framework of Cooperation
- Closing Session: Synthesis and the Way Forward, and Closing Remarks

Wednesday, 23 December 2015:

- Study Visit to 3 local TVET Institutions: Lao German Technical College, Pakpasak Technical College, and Lao National Institute for Tourism and Hospitality

## 10. Expected Outputs

- Proposed practical action plans for student and teacher exchange programme and other collaborative activities among the participating TVET institutions for each priority industry/study area.
- Commitments of TVET institutions for operationalising the student/teacher exchanges or other collaborative activities/programmes.
- Commitment of TVET institutions and industrial companies to participate in the SEA-TVET Consortium.

## 11. 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

**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 Lai Thong Hotel, Ubonrachathani Province <b>(Completed)</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 (banking) 6. Marine maritime(Recommended by OVEC)
3. Myanmar	4-5 December 2015 Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute, Yangon, <b>(Completed)</b>	Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Science and Technology, Ministry of Education, and Singapore-Myanmar Vocational training Institute  The Republic of the Union of Myanmar	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Agriculture and fisheries 3. Construction
4. Lao PDR	22-23 December 2015 New Rose Boutique Hotel, Vientiane <b>(Confirmed)</b>	The Technical and Vocational Education Department (TVED), Ministry of Education and Sports, Lao PDR	1. Hospitality and tourism 2. Agriculture and fisheries 3. Electronics and mechatronics

Country	Tentative Schedule	Host Agency/Organisation	Priority Industry/Study Areas, Identified by the Host Country
5. Malaysia	February 2016 (To be confirmed)	Ministry of Education, Malaysia	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hospitality and tourism</li> <li>2. Electronics, mechatronics and manufacturing</li> <li>3. Agriculture, and fisheries</li> <li>4. Construction/civil engineering</li> <li>5. Commerce (banking)</li> <li>6. Aviation (Recommended by MOE, Malaysia)</li> </ol>
6. Philippines	2016 (To be advised)	Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), Philippines and SEAMEO SEARCA	To be advised by the host country
7. Vietnam	2016 (To be advised)	To be confirmed	To be advised by the host country