



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

26-28 November 2015 | Ubonrachathani, Thailand

*Hosted by the Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education Thailand*

### 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 Second Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility in Thailand.**

As a part of the Country-Level Workshop series in seven countries, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Country-Level Workshop on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility will be hosted by the Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand. The workshop will be tentatively scheduled for three days on 26-28 November 2015, in Bangkok.

## **3. Objectives**

The objectives of the workshop are as follows:

- 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;
  - a3) issues and challenges on TVET; and
  - a4) establishment of SEA-TVET Consortium.
- b) To explore and identify specific Framework of Cooperation, commitments and action plan related to student and teacher exchange programme and other collaborative activities among the participating TVET institutions 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 Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education, Thailand

**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. **Schedule and Venue:** 26-28 November 2015, Ubonrachathani Province, Thailand

7. **Priority Study/Industry Areas for the Country-Level Workshop in Thailand:**

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, OVEC has recommended the following six priority areas for harmonising and implementing teachers and student exchanges among the TVET institutions in Thailand and with other participating TVET Institutions from other Southeast Asian countries.

- a) Tourism and hospitality;
- b) Electronics, mechatronics and manufacturing
- c) Agriculture and fisheries;
- d) Construction/civil engineering;
- e) Commerce and banking
- f) Marine maritime

8. **Participants:**

The Country-Level Workshop in Thailand expects to be participated by 100- 150 participants, including:

- a) TVET policy makers and experts from Ministry of Education and related government agencies in Thailand
- b) Directors/representatives from leading TVET institutions in Thailand
- c) Directors/representatives of leading TVET institutions from Southeast Asian countries – **12 representatives of leading TVET institutions** from each Southeast Asian country will be invited.
- d) Resource persons from SEAMEO Regional Centres and other development agencies.

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 identified by Thailand in point 7.
- b) The TVET institution is able to identify at relevant industrial companies for hosting 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 six priority areas.

10. **Expected Outputs:**

- a) Proposed Framework of Cooperation and promising action plan for promoting student and teacher mobility 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 to participate in the SEA-TVET Consortium.
- d) At least a Framework of Cooperation from each group will be signed by the representatives of the participating TVET institutions.

**11. Funding Support:**

- a) OVEC, MOE Thailand will support the following expenses to the TVET representatives from other Southeast Asian countries:
  - Accommodation for 12 representatives from Southeast Asian Countries for 3 nights from 25 to 28 or 29 November (twin sharing)
  - Programme expenses as meeting package, venue arrangement, administrative expenses, and domestic arrangement for the study visit programme.
- b) The travel expenses, and allowance of TVET Institutions from other Southeast Asian countries should be supported by the respective Ministry/TVET institutions.

**12. Coordinators:**

For additional information of this workshop, 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

## Appendix II

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

October 2015- April 2016

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

**Tentative Programme**  
**Country-Level Workshop in Thailand on SEA-TVET Harmonisation and Mobility**  
 26-28 November 2015 | Ubonrachathani, Thailand

*Hosted by the Office of Vocational Education Commission, Ministry of Education Thailand*

Wed, 25 Nov. 2015	
	Arrival of participants and check-in at the hotel
Thu, 26 Nov. 2015	
08.00-09.00	Registration
09.00-09.30	<b>Opening Ceremony</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcome Remarks</li> <li>- Opening Remarks</li> </ul>
09.30- 10.00	Coffee Break
10.00-10.15	<b>Session 1:</b> Introduction of Participants and Programme by SEAMEO SEAMOLEC
10.15- 11.00	<b>Session 2: Orientation on “Status of the On-going SEA-TVET Programme”</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <b>Regional Policy Recommendations from the Southeast Asian High Officials Meeting on SEA-TVET on 24-26 August 2015 in Chiangmai</b> by OVEC, Ministry of Education Thailand</li> <li>2. <b>SEAMEO Regional Initiative on Development of Southeast Asian Technical and Vocational Education and Training (SEA-TVET)</b> by SEAMEO VOCTECH</li> </ol>
11.00-12.30	<b>Session 3: Panel Discussion on “Sharing Good Practices on Improving TVET Learners’ Competency through Mobility and Industrial Attachment ”</b> <p>Speakers: Representatives from UK, German, Ireland</p>
12.30-13.30	Lunch
13.30-15.00	<b>Session 5: Introducing to SEA TVET Consortium Website, Guide Book and the Regulation of Uploading Institution Data and Curriculum</b> by SEAMEO VOCTECH and SEAMEO SEAMOLEC
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.00	<b>Session 6: Introduction of Group Discussion</b> by SEAMEO SEAMOLEC
16.00-17.30	<b>Session 7: Group Discussion on “Proposed Framework of Cooperation”</b> <p>The participants will be grouped according to their fields of study or interest as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Group 1: Tourism and hospitality</b></li> <li>• <b>Group 2: Electronics, mechatronics, manufacturing</b></li> <li>• <b>Group 3: Agriculture and fisheries</b></li> <li>• <b>Group 4: Construction/civil engineering</b></li> <li>• <b>Group 5: Commerce and banking</b></li> <li>• <b>Group 6: Marine maritime</b></li> </ul> <p><i>Purposes of this session:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <i>Explore the potential areas of collaboration within each priority area</i></li> <li>- <i>Develop the Framework of Cooperation for 1 year or three years among the agreed institutions (The template of Framework of Cooperation is provided)</i></li> </ul>



18.30-19.30	Dinner
<b>Fri, 27 Nov 2015</b>	
09.00- 09.15	<b>Session 8: Reflections from Day 1</b>
09.15-10.30	<b>Session 9: Networking Session</b>  <i>Purposes of this session:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify partners and forms of partnership such as bilateral and trilateral</li> <li>- Discuss in details of collaboration among the agreed parties</li> </ul>
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break
11.00-12.00	<b>Session 10: Group Discussion on “Proposed Action Plan”</b> The participants will be grouped according to the decided joint activity under each priority area:  <i>Purposes of this session:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Identify the action plan, steps and timeline to implement the collaborative programme (s) among the agreed parties</li> <li>- Identify the support mechanisms which they need for the successful implementation</li> </ul>
12.00-13.00	Lunch
13.00-14.00	<b>Session 11: Group Discussion on “Proposed Action Plan” (Cont.)</b>
14.00-15.00	<b>Session 12: Reporting from the Group Discussions and Networking Session</b>
15.00-15.30	Coffee Break
15.30-16.30	<b>Session 13: Synthesis and the Way Forward</b> <i>By SEAMEO VOCTECH and SEAMEO Secretariat</i>  <b>Signing of Agreement between Institutions</b>
16.30-17.00	<b>Closing Ceremony</b>
18.30-20.00	Dinner
<b>Sat, 28 Nov 2015</b>	
08.00- 12.30	<b>Study Visits to local TVET institutions</b>
12.30-14.00	Lunch
PM	Departure of participants