SEAMOLEC in Cooperation with Universities in Southeast Asia and Europe in Conducting the Biggest Sales Competition

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SUPPORTING MERDEKA BELAJAR

SEAMOLEC Launched CATC Online Course Programme

SEAMEO Outlook: A Collaboration of SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia to Support Merdeka Belajar
SINFO

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SEAMEO MEMBER COUNTRIES
Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor Leste, and Vietnam.

SEAMEO ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES
Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and United Kingdom.
FROM DIRECTOR’S DESK

Dear Readers,
Greetings from SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, Jakarta!

I am delighted to share this 2021 SEAMOLEC Info - April edition with you. Starting from this edition, you will see the newsletter come in a new bilingual format, using both English and Indonesian language.

In the first quarter of the year, SEAMOLEC has managed to conduct several programmes for the public. The Webinar Series of Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum (CATC) was launched on January 20, 2021 and scheduled to be held in 21 sessions until July this year. This programme is prepared with 12 Indonesian Vocational High Schools as SEAMOLEC’s partners and is open for public.

SEAMOLEC was also involved in the conduct of The South-East Asia Sales Competition (SEASAC) 2021 virtually on March 3-5, 2021. It was the first and biggest sales competition ever held in the world, hosted by Parahyangan Catholic University, and co-organized by SEASAC partners. It was participated and supported by hundreds of people acting as competitors, judges, and buyers.

Inter-centre collaboration was highlighted with a join programme with seven SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia called SEAMEO Outlook. It was held online through a Zoom meeting on February 6, 2021 at SEAMEO BIOTROP, Bogor, where all seven Centre Directors were interviewed in a talk show session broadcasted live through YouTube.

On February 27, 2021 SEAMOLEC celebrated its 24th anniversary, signifying its efforts and contribution to the region in reaching its vision and mission. With reference to its four core tasks; Research and Development, Training, Consultancy, and Information Dissemination, SEAMOLEC also has planned and mapped its programme and activities throughout the year. Several training programmes have been carried out in both face-to-face and virtual. The ODL models 2021 is now in the plan and preparation stage, actively involving SEAMOLEC’s partners.

I hope you will enjoy this first edition of SEAMOLEC Info 2021 in the new format. We look forward to suggestions from our readers, do not hesitate to submit your inputs through SEAMOLEC’s social media accounts. Thank you and have a nice reading!

R. Alpha Amirrachman, M. Phil., Ph.D.
DIRECTOR
Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum (CATC) Online Courses, Development and Implementation in Indonesia was officially and virtually launched on January 20, 2021 at 14.00-15.30 hrs. (GMT+7). The event was participated by more than 300 participants, including students, teachers, representatives from industry, and representatives from several directorates of The Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia. This programme is prepared to support the revitalisation of vocational education in Indonesia, which is one of the priority programmes of MoEC, called Merdeka Belajar in 2021. The Concept of Merdeka Belajar is interpreted as in accordance with the objectives of open and distance learning (ODL), which facilitate students to study at any time, anywhere, and based on their talent, interest, and capability.

The CATC programme has been initiated by SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) since November 2018, by conducting a feasibility study in six Southeast Asian countries; Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, The Philippines, Thailand, and Timor Leste. This study was aimed to explore the possibility of ODL programme implementation in the tourism sector, and with the main objective to gather information related to CATC implementation status in various technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, as well as to seek for stronger networking and partnership.

The findings of the study showed that the implication and implementation of ASEAN Common Competency Standard Tourism Professional (ACCSTP) and CATC has been managed by education and training providers in various ways according to the policy, needs, and obstacles in each country. As a follow up of the study results, in 2019, 3 units of Housekeeping competency subjects were developed; 1) Provide housekeeping service to guests, 2) Clean and prepare rooms for incoming guests, and 3) Provide
SUPPORTING MERDEKA BELAJAR, SEAMOLEC LAUNCHED CATC ONLINE COURSE PROGRAMME

In the year 2021 SEAMEO SEAMOLEC invited partners; 12 Indonesian vocational high schools in the field of hospitality, Centre of Quality Assurance Development of Vocational Education (BBPPMPV) in Business and Tourism, and industries. Furthermore, support also comes from Directorate of Partnership and Alignment of Business and Industry, and Directorate of Vocational High Schools, MoEC. All partners will develop 21 titles of competency units to be used in furthers activities, webinar series and online course development.

The launching event was opened by a report of the CATC Coordinator Programme in SEAMOLEC, Cahya Kusuma Ratih, SEAMOLEC Research and Development Manager. SEAMOLEC Director, R. Alpha Amirrachman, M.Phil., Ph.D. delivered his welcome remarks, and the Principal of SMKN 6 Yogyakarta, Wiwik Indriyani, S.Pd., M.Si delivered remarks representing all 12 schools that joined in this programme.

The representative of the tourism industry also shared their supports, presented by Arya Pering Arimbawa, the Head of Indonesian Hotel General Manager Association (IHGMA); the Head of BBPPMPV in Business and Tourism, Sabli, SH, MH.; and the Director of Vocational High Schools, M. Widiyanto, S.Pd., MT. This event was officially launched by the Director of Partnership and Alignment of Business and Industry, Dr. Ahmad Saufi, S.Si, M.Sc.

Through this CATC Programme SEAMOLEC expected that there will be more and more students facilitated by flexible and easy access to learning resources. They will be able to study from anywhere at any time, based on their talent, interests, and capability. It will also allow them to expand their networks with Southeast Asian colleagues, in accordance with the tourism professional mobility concept in Southeast Asia region.

For further information related to this program, please visit SEAMOLEC official website: https://seamolec.org/catc
SEAMOLEC COOPERATION WITH UNIVERSITIES IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND EUROPE IN CONDUCTING THE BIGGEST SALES COMPETITION

In its efforts to improve the global competency of university graduates in Southeast Asia, SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) as one of active partners of the South-East Asian Sales Competition (SEASAC) project, facilitated the conduct of SEASAC 2021.

There were more than 170 people involved, consisting of 80 university students as competitors, and more than 90 practitioners and educators in universities from 15 countries in Asia and Europe, creating a history of the first and biggest international sales competition ever held.

SEASAC is a European Commission funded Erasmus+ project created to support the professionalisation of B2B sales throughout the South-East Asian region. SEASAC Consortium consists of 4 European universities, 5 Indonesian universities, 2 Thai universities, and SEAMOLEC.

In this competition, competitors acted as salespeople and met a practitioner/educator/senior who acted as buyer in a simulated sales meeting. Many experts with experience and background from business and pedagogy, joined the competition as judges. This concept of sales competition adopted by Southeast Asian universities has been developed and tested over many years by a number of European universities.

After the success of the 2020 SEASAC, hosted by the Mahasarakham University in Thailand, this year’s competition lead moves to Indonesia. Due to the continued pandemic, the SEASAC 2021 - in-tune with current sales conversations - the event was held online on March 3rd to 5th 2021. SEASAC 2021, sponsored by Salesforce, and hosted by the Universitas Katolik Parahyangan (UNPAR).

There was an official opening ceremony held before the competition started. Official remarks were delivered by H.E. Nadiem Anwar Makarim, MBA, the Minister of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia, and Mr. Suphat Jumpathong, Ph.D, the Permanent Secretary for Education, Ministry of Education of Thailand as a form of support from the Ministry.
of Education in Southeast Asia. In the opening speech, Minister of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia Nadiem Makarim mentioned that joint programs organized by SEAMEO such as competition and seminars for students from ASEAN universities are one of the best strategies to build and promote cooperation in the education field. The welcoming remark was delivered by the SEASAC Project Coordinator, Mr. Harri Lappalainen from Turku University of Applied Sciences, Finland. Mr. Lappalainen mentioned that this event is the biggest Sales Competition for university-level ever held internationally. This SEASAC 2021 event was also greatly supported by the Headquarter of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO), Thailand, support message was delivered by Dr. Wahyudi, the Deputy Director for Programme of SEAMEO Secretariat.

The main sponsor of SEASAC 2021 is Salesforce, Singapore. Mr. Mohd. Rachman, the Asia Pacific Head Futureforce shared his message to all competitors. Mr. Mangadar Situmorang, Ph.D, Rector of Parahyangan Catholic University also shared his welcome message to all participants of the opening ceremony. Continued with the warm hello from Dr Margaretha Banowati Talim, the SEASAC 2021 Competition Director. She said “I am delighted that we had a huge number of students participate, they are all stars. My thanks go to my own staff and students, the various ministries of education and to the huge number of people from across the globe who helped make this a success”.

Mr. Harri Lappalainen, the Head of the SEASAC project and representing Turku University of Applied Sciences (Finland), says, “We have now in great cooperation with relevant stakeholders created a Community of Practice around B2B sales higher education in South-East Asia. My feeling is that this has still been just a prelude and we expect to see expansion of SEASAC concept to hundreds of universities and polytechnics in coming years”.

Details and how to contact the Southeast Asia Sales Competition core personnel can be found at www.seasalescompetition.com

The winners of SEASAC 2021 are:

- Sean, Tan Zhong Yue, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore
- Gabriella Stephanie S, Politeknik Negeri Batam (Polibatam), Indonesia
- Noel Steven Limbong, Politeknik Negeri Batam (Polibatam), Indonesia
- Ivan, Sim Ding Hao, Nanyang Technological University (NTU), Singapore

SEASAC Social Media Accounts:

Youtube: SEASAC Project South-East Asian Sales Competition
Instagram: @seasac_project
Facebook: @SeasacProject
Twitter: @SeasacP
**WHO IS WHO**

**Daniah Adjani Putri**
SEAMEO SEAMOLEC new staff of the Marketing and Publication Division, Daniah, as people usually call her, started working at SEAMEO SEAMOLEC in March 2021. She graduated from the Diploma III programme at Creative Media State Polytechnic and became the best graduate of Multimedia Major. During her study, she did an internship at multinational science and technology company in Indonesia, PT. MERCK Tbk. as a graphic designer in the creative and marketing department.

She actively participated in competition and research, as she joined the national student performance for information and communication technology or better known as GEMASTIK held by the Directorate General of Learning and Student Affairs of the Ministry of Research, Technology, and Education of Indonesian. In 2020, she did a research and journal publication along with her lecturer, about digital learning media from the aspect of design and multimedia Augmented Reality.

The education system, especially in the field of Open and Distance Learning (ODL), plays an important role in advancing the quality of education. In the current digital era, she believes that SEAMOLEC has a great influence in ODL, making the education system more flexible and easily accessible to all learners. Also, She is determined to giving her best and to contribute to achieve the goal of SEAMOLEC.

**Novaria Nusantara**
Novaria Nusantara, or Nova as her nickname, is SEAMEO SEAMOLEC new staff for IT Content and Knowledge Management Division. Nova started working at SEAMEO SEAMOLEC in March 2021. Graduated from the Diploma III programme at Creative Media State Polytechnic in Multimedia Major, she first started her career as a Graphic Design Administrator for a private Islamic University in Jakarta.

When she was still a university student, she participated in workshops Center for Strategy Development and Linguistic Diplomacy, PPSDK - Language Agency, of the Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia, and took part in the creation of game-based learning media related to Indonesian Culture. During her study at Creative Media State Polytechnic, she did an internship at Learning & Development Unit PT ANTAM tbk with BUMN Certified Student Internship Program FHCI for six months in 2020.

With her educational and experience background, she wishes to be able to contribute to her work in SEAMOLEC as a regional centre. She believes that SEAMOLEC is one of the places where people can access knowledge without being hindered by space and time facilitated by ODL. By joining SEAMOLEC, Nova expects to cooperate well with other staff, be involved in developing more interesting learning methods, and add new knowledge for many people.
2021 ODL MODEL
Preparation and Planning

This year, in 2021, SEAMOLEC ODL models cover the theme of “Quality Improvement of Open and Distance Learning in the New Normal Era”. In line with it, the programme divisions are jointly working on the preparation and planning of eight new initiatives of open and distance learning (ODL) models. Those models are:

1. Distance Learning Standards on Basic and Secondary Education.
3. The Consortium’s Mode of Distance Learning in Higher Education.
5. Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum (CATC)-based Online Courses Development in Southeast Asia TVET Higher Education Institutes.
8. Project-based Learning for the Industrial Attachment Programs

Several activities have been done to prepare and plan those 2021 ODL Model. Those are:

1) Focus group discussion (FGD) on the current practices and need analysis for the development of a distance learning on basic and secondary education, virtual meeting on March 2nd, 2021. This FGD has an objective to gather information on the practices of ODL in secondary education in Indonesia as well as to identify the needs of the ODL minimum standards especially in secondary education. Inviting practitioners and stakeholders in ODL Model Schools for SMA Terbuka.

2) Focus group discussion (FGD) on the engaging learning current practices in kindergarten, elementary school, junior high school, senior high school, vocational school, and higher education, virtual meeting on 9-10 March 2021. In this regard, SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Center (SEAMOLEC) designs and develops a strategic model for engaging learning in special conditions which can be applied as alternative at the early childhood education (PAUD), elementary education (SD and SMP), secondary education (SMA), vocational secondary education (SMK), and higher education levels.
As an initial stage, SEAMOLEC held a focus group discussion. This FGD is intended to obtain good practice information on the implementation of learning at the PAUD, SD, SMP, SMA, SMK and Higher Education levels. The FGDs were held for 2 days on March 9 and 10, 2021, inviting stakeholders and professionals as resource persons.

To view the discussion recorded session is available on:

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3) The preparation of the 2nd batch of the consortium’s mode of distance learning in higher education.

In 2020, SEAMOLEC together with The Association of Higher Education in Public Health of Muhammadiyah Indonesia have initiated a distance learning model with a consortium mode. Involving Universitas Muhammadiyah Semarang and Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta in the model. The successful output implemented in 2020 is the availability of a Web-based Course for Basic Public Health Sciences and Public Health Surveillance courses. It is necessary to continue the model implementation in 2021 by integrating into the learning process at both universities. A preparation meeting was then conducted to identify the development needs, as well as to develop learning designs/scenarios that will be applied to learning.

4) Preparation meetings and FGD on the CATC-based online courses development.

As a continuation programme of the Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum (CATC) since 2018, SEAMEO SEAMOLEC this year will involve vocational TVET higher educations in developing one of the competency units of travel agencies and tour operators as a form of online learning model based on CATC in Southeast Asia. This FGD is intended to obtain good practice information on the implementation of online learning in Southeast Asia TVET higher education institutes.

Resource person of this FGD were educators from six countries: Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand, Timor Leste, and a representative from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Indonesia.

Lessons learned from this FGD will be used as inputs for further development of CATC-based online courses for TVET higher education institutions that will be conducted in 2021. Recording of this FGD is available here: http://bit.ly/youtubeFGDCATC_170321

5) Focus group discussion on the preparation of the artificial intelligence (AI)-based applications development and utilization in teaching and learning.

In 2021, SEAMOLEC will continue research for the development of artificial intelligence simulator, after last year it focused on developing a simulator platform itself. There were two objectives in the FGD, which are to identify strategy of further testing and implementation of AI simulators and, to gather various information on the new model with the theme Utilization Artificial Intelligence to Enhance Language Learning.

For this purpose, SEAMOLEC invited an AI expert from BISA AI Academy and an English teacher from a vocational level to identify AI technology that is expected to support English language learning. From this meeting, SEAMOLEC team, lecture from University of Teknokrat (SEAMOLEC partner on AI simulator development), expert from BISA AI Academy, and English teacher identified several follow up actions related to the AI-based application development in English language learning, and AI simulator.
READY FOR NEW NORMAL EDUCATION
SEAMOLEC Organized Training in Open Distance Learning (ODL) with New Partners and Materials

In the first quarter of 2021, SEAMOLEC conducted several trainings in ODL field to prepare the educators and learning strategies for this new normal education era. The topics are as follows:

1. Introduction to Office 365
2. Utilization of E-learning for New Normal Education Era
3. Augmented Reality-based Teaching Materials Development
Here is the further information regarding the programmes.

**Kick Off: SEAMOLEC featuring Assemblr Teknologi Indonesia Conducted Online Training on AR-based Interactive Learning Media**

Augmented reality is a technology that combines the real world with the virtual world in 2D or 3D forms which are projected in a real environment at the same time. The augmented reality technology can be utilised in the education field as a digital simulation tool for simulations. Providers of AR services and products for education have sprung up in Indonesia, one of them is PT. Assemblr Teknologi Indonesia.

At the end of 2020, PT. Assemblr Teknologi Indonesia, through its Assemblr EDU service, developed a cooperation with SEAMOLEC in developing learning models using augmented reality (AR) technology. This is in line with the SEAMOLEC program in developing learning models with the industry 4.0 technology approach which is also affected by AR technology. In this collaboration, both parties agreed to develop an ICT-based learning media to support distance learning, especially in implementing the digital practice.

Assemblr EDU itself is a mobile and desktop application platform that helps users create a more accessible, interactive, and engaging learning experience in 3D and augmented reality formats. Students who encounter a difficulty in understanding 2D materials will also be helped by this application. Educators who find it difficult to explain a concept due to the lack of proper props can utilize this application to develop teaching materials that are easier to be understood.

In February 2021, SEAMOLEC together with PT. Assemblr Teknologi Indonesia conducted an Online Training on AR-based Interactive Learning Media Development using The Assemblr EDU Application. The main target of this training was educators, but this training was also open for students and the public. After the training, participants were expected to develop virtual simulations or digital tools for practice-based learning.

The first batch of the training was greeted enthusiastically by teachers and lecturers. In only 4 hours, the participant quota, which was limited for 300 people, has been fulfilled. The training was divided into two classes with 10 sessions of video conference meetings. SEAMOLEC provides a MOOC
platform (mooc.seamolec.org) for online learning management. Participants can access and study independently through this platform.

As a final project, participants were required to develop interactive learning media in accordance with the lesson plans that have been developed. The media they developed were required to be implemented to students during the training period. As a result, the new learning method through AR-based learning media that the participants developed had a positive impact on students’ learning experiences.

The Needs for Elearning is Becoming more Increased: SEAMOLEC Conducted Online Training on Introduction to Office 365

Seeing the high demand for The Training on Introduction to Office 365 last year, in early 2021 SEAMEO SEAMOLEC organised the same training again. This time the training was conducted in two periods, namely the January-February and February-March periods. The total number of participants in both periods reached 160 people consisting of teachers, lecturers, and students.

The training session lasts for 4 weeks with six mentoring via video conferencing. Each session was conducted three times in the first week and the third week of training. In the first week of the assistance session, the teacher invites participants to discuss virtually regarding the training materials they learned. In the third
week, participants were expected to share the obstacles they experienced while working on the final project.

During the training, participants learned how to create digital quizzes and questionnaires using Microsoft Forms, use Microsoft Sway to create storytelling-based presentations, and utilize the Microsoft OneNote application to take notes, record voices, and draw sketches.

In addition, participants were also given an Office 365 account which they can use to host virtual classes through the Microsoft Teams application. How to utilize this application also could be learned during the training.

During the utilization of Microsoft Teams session, the participants were very enthusiastic about learning its features one by one. They learned how to create virtual classes, share teaching materials, create online quizzes and assignments, schedule and host video conferences, and document student progress. Before organizing a real virtual class, each participant was required to try to create a virtual class and invite the participants of this training to join on it. Such activities made participants more enthusiastic about engaging in this training.

Aside from learning the training materials, participants were required to complete various challenges provided by Office 365. This activity was also something participants must do in this training. As the training completion requirements, participants were expected to produce a certain project according to materials they learned during the training. In addition, the scores that participants collect from the challenges provided by Office 365 were also one of the requirements for participants to receive a certificate worth 32 learning hours that SEAMOLEC provides.

**Initial Training of Raden Fatah Islamic State University (UIN) Palembang and SEAMOLEC**

Located at the Jakabaring B Campus Library Building, the Rector of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang opened an *E-Learning Development Training* which is a cooperation realization between UIN Raden Fatah Palembang and SEAMOLEC. The theme “Video and Animation-based Teaching Materials Development” was chosen to attract participants to participate in the training which was conducted on March 7-11, 2021. In the opening session, the Rector of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang Prof. Dr. Nyayu Khodijah, M.Si, and the SEAMOLEC Director Alpha Amirrachman, M.Phil., Ph.D, signed a cooperation agreement between the two institutions.

In the opening session, the SEAMOLEC Director expressed his hopes for the cooperation of the two institutions. In his remarks, Alpha said that SEAMOLEC and UINRF could work together in realizing training and developing distance learning models. He added, during the pandemic situation, distance learning is very much needed because it is considered quite effective and efficient.

Meanwhile, in her speech, the Rector of UINRF explained about the application of distance learning at UINRF. Nyayu said that distance learning has been implemented at UINRF for a long time, even before the pandemic. However, at that time it was only a suggestion so that it had not been implemented optimally. Meanwhile, during the pandemic e-learning becomes necessary. Therefore, Nyayu hoped that the cooperation of the two institutions can help in improving the quality of UINRF lecturers in the ODL aspect. She added that in the future UINRF will organize again the
In April 2021, there was a training for the human resources quality improvement with the SEAMOLEC team as trainers.

This initial training was participated by thirty people consisting of the representatives from faculty which came from various competency backgrounds. The educators said that they were enthusiastic about being participants because the material shared was very useful for organizing ODL. In addition, the material taught was very practical and it was something new for the participants so that they did not get bored easily during the training.

Two materials that SEAMOLEC team provided were about 1) how to develop teaching materials based on simple 2D animation and 2) how to produce video lecture, starting from the preparation, to the production, until to the post production stage. Both topics were delivered in a simple, detailed, and structured way. Thus, participants could follow the training instructions step by step easily.
SEAMO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) is having a new feature on its official website (https://seamolec.org/) called Open and Distance Learning (ODL) Articles. It is designed to provide information with various topics related to ODL and other relevant issues. It also serves as a means for exchange of ideas and issues on trends in education in general, and specifically in ODL, from our stakeholders.

The articles focus on in-depth analysis of current issues in the field of ODL. Therefore, in order to enrich this new website-feature, we would like to invite all SEAMOLEC partners, the alumni of SEAMOLEC training program, and stakeholders, to contribute an article representing the current topics applied in each respective country of Southeast Asia region. Kindly visit SEAMOLEC official website to refer to the writing guidelines or to submit your articles.

Should you have any inquiries, please do not hesitate to contact secretariat@seamolec.org.
SEAMOLEC is conducting the E-Commerce Training in Hospitality and Tourism Industries for TVET Teachers in Southeast Asia. This training is held in four batches with each batch participated by 300 teachers. In total there will be more than 1000 teachers, most of them come from Indonesian, but there will also be around 200 Southeast Asia teachers that will be participating in this online training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Batches</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Participants</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st batch</td>
<td>16-18 March 2021</td>
<td>Indonesian teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd batch</td>
<td>29-31 March 2021</td>
<td>Indonesian teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd batch</td>
<td>5-7 April 2021</td>
<td>Indonesian teachers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4th batch</td>
<td>12-14 April 2021</td>
<td>Southeast Asia teachers</td>
</tr>
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This training mainly has the objective to increase the e-commerce literacy of teachers at tourism TVET schools from the perspective of hotel industry practitioners. Mr. I Wayan Eka Ginastra as an area manager of Userguest and former area manager of Expedia Group and Mr. Agung Biantara as director of revenue at Ayodya Resort Bali, both of them are GIZ consultants that will act as main instructors in this training. The course is designed to be practice oriented and foster the utilization of e-commerce tools and digital data aiming to generate hotel revenue. In the digital tourism era, the competency is crucial to support hotel’s management.
in data-driven decision-making. Digitalization and digital technology have reshaped the way of running business especially in the tourism industry. Currently, approximately 70% of hotel revenue comes from businesses that rely on online marketing rather than offline. Hotels in the majority of ASEAN Member States (AMS) face a big challenge to fulfill their need for skilled personnel especially those dedicated for e-commerce. In recent years, some vocational institutes started to pay more attention to hotel e-commerce. They offer full courses or specific subjects in this particular field with instructors recruited from the industry. However, this is still deemed to be insufficient and poorly sustainable as the number of their internal personnel with adequate e-commerce skills are still lacking. TVET institutes cannot fully depend on external resources to deliver such courses. For this reason, it is very important to equip TVET personnel offering tourism programs with e-commerce competency they need to produce graduates with a certain level of competency.

In this regard, The GIZ is extending the ISED Project to support Directorate General of Vocational Education, Ministry of Education Republic of Indonesia, by conducting an online training for TVET teachers (SMK teachers as well as Polytechnic lecturers) in Indonesia as well as Southeast Asia countries. With support of SEAMOLEC for the delivery mechanism, this training is conducted fully online. Participants are required to register themselves in the SEAMOLEC etraining platform and their completion certificates will also be available on that platform. The video conference platform will be used to deliver this training and the training materials also available on the SEAMOLEC MOOC platform.
Several coordination meetings were held during February and March, some were held online and others through visits to respective partner institutions.

About ten online meetings have been conducted with six partner institutions, and for the other seventeen partner institutions / potential partners, the SEAMOLEC team visited them directly. In the same time, five partner institutions visited held the MoU / MoA signing ceremony with SEAMOLEC, including UIN Raden Fatah Palembang, IAIN Salatiga, Muhammadiyah University of Tangerang, SMKN 3 Kota Tangerang, and SMKI Insan Mulia. On March 24-26, SEAMOLEC also held a partnership workshop which invited twenty partner institutions / potential partners (schools and universities) and one educational foundation under the auspices of PIA Ardhya Garini. The result was that approximately eighteen partner institutions have agreed to participate in the SEAMOLEC distance learning model implementation program in their respective schools and campuses and all partners have filled in planning forms and instruments related to the program. There were also several partner institutions that chose to participate in the SEAMOLEC training program for teachers / lecturers in their institutions.

SEAMOLEC starts 2021 by preparing joint collaboration programs. This preparation stage is for an agreement and finalization of program design with each SEAMOLEC partner, in which for 2021 there are approximately 32 partner institutions that will be involved (school and higher education level).
A Collaboration of SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia to Support *Merdeka Belajar*

The seven SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia held a joint-webinar event in form of talk show called SEAMEO Outlook on February 6, 2021 located in SEAMEO BIOTROP, Bogor. Directors from seven centres were invited to talk about the expertise and programmes of each centres to the audience. It was broadcasted through zoom conference and shared live through SEAMEO BIOTROP’s and TV Edukasi’s Youtube accounts, there were about 1000 participants joined.

The SEAMEO Outlook is designed as support from 7 SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia to the Priority Programme set by the Ministry of Education and Culture (MoEC) of Indonesia, which is *Merdeka Belajar* (in English: Freedom Learning) and *Kampus Merdeka* (in English: Freedom Campus). The support given through innovative learning methods developed by all centres in order to improve the quality of education in Indonesia.

The main objective of this event is to provide information related to various ways of synergizing with the seven SEAMEO Centres in Indonesia, offered to education institutions, such as schools and universities, decision makers, and other stakeholders.
Also attended as speakers in this event were: Rector of Institut Pertanian Bogor (IPB) who is also the Chairman of Advisory Board of SEAMEO BIOTROP, Prof. Dr. Arif Satria, Acting Head of Bureau of Cooperation and Public Relations of MoEC, Ir, Hendarman, M.Sc., PhD, and the Deputy Director for Programme of SEAMEO Secretariat, Dr. Wahyudi.

The seven centres came up with different topics of discussion, as follows

1. SEAMEO BIOTROP, Learning Approach Ideas Online Hybrid Learning System;
2. SEAMEO SEAMOLEC, The Role of SEAMOLEC in Improving the Quality of Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in the New Normal Era;
3. SEAMEO RECFON, Developing Healthy and Adequate Nutritional Human Resources through Merdeka Belajar and Kampus Merdeka;
4. SEAMEO QITEP in Mathematics, Freedom to Learn Mathematics through SEAQiM’s Programmes
5. SEAMEO QITEP in SCIENCE, SEAQiS’ Excellent Programmes in Supporting Merdeka Belajar;
6. SEAMEO QITEP in Language, Mereka Belajar Policy through Internationalization of Bahasa Indonesia and School Literacy Club;
7. SEAMEO CECCEP, Building High Quality Human Resources through Merdeka Belajar in Early Childhood Education and Parenting.

Dr. Alpha Amirrachman, SEAMOLEC Director highlighted that SEAMOLEC interprets the idea of Merdeka Belajar as flexibility for learners to learn at any time, from anywhere, while adjusting to their interests, talents, and ability. SEAMOLEC decides to lay the Merdeka Belajar priority as the big umbrella of its programmes. “We provide training programmes opened for public, which is expected to held educators in general to design their digital class, among others; digital learning resources, infographics, basic powerpoint, learning through Augmented Reality (AR)/ Virtual Reality (VR), and many more innovative technologies to be integrated with the learning process.”

Apart from that, SEAMOLEC also develops open distance learning (ODL) models and prepares assistance for educational institutions who need to implement ODL. “In the future, SEAMOLEC will continue to seek alternative strategies to be used by educators in preparing fun learning through the use of ODL,” concluded by Dr. Alpha.

The recording of this event can be accessed at SEAMEO Biotrop Youtube channel or http://bit.ly/seameoutlook.
Happy wedding to
Alfan & Rista
December 20, 2021

Best wishes on this wonderful journey, as you build your new lives together. May the years ahead be filled with lasting joy for you two.

Happy wedding to
Rindri dan Kokoh
6 Februari 2021

Wishing you a lifetime of happiness together and a love that grows stronger with each passing day. Congratulations!