E-learning Benchmarking Visit of PPPPTK IPA

Collaboration of SEAMOLEC and Triple I in Enhancing Future Learning for Southeast Asia
SINFO

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Greetings from SEAMOLEC

New year is always welcome with enthusiasm at SEAMOLEC. New year means new spirit and motivation to keep innovating better programmes and strive to provide better services.

I am Yudistira Wahyu Widiasana, the Deputy Director for Administration at SEAMOLEC. When entering the year 2022, the Ministry of Education Culture Research and Technology (MoECRT) of Indonesia appointed me to assist SEAMOLEC as the acting director until the new director is appointed. I am very honored and pleased to welcome this challenge with the expectation to be able to design, develop, and deliver better services with all beloved colleagues at SEAMOLEC.

On February 27th, 2022, the centre turned 25 years old since its establishment in 1997. Over the years, SEAMOLEC has come up with various programmes and activities related to its core tasks servicing its partners in the Southeast Asia region and beyond.

Within the first quarter of this year, SEAMOLEC managed to report several training series, webinars, as well as our efforts in exploring for collaboration with new and existing partners of the centre. In order to enhance our regional and international services, SEAMOLEC also started cooperation with ICE Institute by giving assistance to an international project namely TIESEA, stands for technology-Enabled Innovation in Education in Southeast Asia. The project covers not only Indonesia, but also Cambodia, the Philippines, and Vietnam.

Not only that, SEAMOLEC is also involved in The International Cooperation Joint Ceremony of the 2022 Metaedu Smart Education Expo organized by the Institute for Information Industry or Triple I, based in Taiwan. The centre also hosted the Webinar on Indonesia-Thailand Tourism Vocational Skills Exchange 2022, involving collaboration of Thai colleges and Indonesian vocational schools in the tourism and hospitality field. I do hope you have a pleasant time reading the full article of those activities in this edition.

Let us all welcome this promising year and expect the pandemic is soon to be over.

Yudistira Wahyu Widiasana, S.Sos., M.Si.
ACTING DIRECTOR
On February 24, 2022, Dr. Ir. Insun Sangadji, M. Si, the Acting Head of Maluku Education and Culture Office, visited SEAMOLEC. Her visitation was accepted by the Acting Director of SEAMOLEC, Mr. Yudistira Wahyu Widiasana, Mrs. Cahya Kusuma Ratih as the Acting Deputy Director for Programme, Mr. Ali Imron, and Mr. Aqil Aulia Wafda Amin from Community Partnership division.

During her visitation, Dr. Insun explained the education conditions in Maluku Province. She said that there is a gap between schools in Maluku province due to the geographical condition and some schools lack of facilities. Furthermore, she also explained that most vocational schools in Maluku province, through their entrepreneurship programme, develop their own products that relate to Maluku’s specialty. For example, there is a school in Maluku that produces ice cream with unique tastes such as herbs and spices. Another example, there is also another school that is known for their cajuput oil production.

Regarding that explanation, SEAMOLEC’s board of directors said that as a center that focused on open and distance learning, SEAMOLEC tried to analyze what SEAMOLEC can do according to that issue. One of the programmes that related to Maluku’s education condition is blended learning for Vocational School, which is a model that SEAMOLEC has been currently developing. This programme facilitates vocational schools to grow their own specialty, especially on their entrepreneurship programme. Closing the meeting, both sides; Maluku Education and Culture Office and SEAMOLEC, agreed that there will be further discussion regarding the programme that will be implemented in Maluku.
WEBINAR SERIES

WEBINAR ON INDONESIA-THAILAND TOURISM VOCATIONAL SKILLS EXCHANGE 2022

SEAMOLEC is excited to start the 2022 by holding a collaborative webinar between Indonesia and Thailand. A two-day webinar was held on January 25-26, 2022 organized by the Bangkok College of Business Administration and Tourism (BC-BAT) with the assistance of SMKN 3 Denpasar and SMKN 9 Bandung. The webinar was opened by remarks from SEAMOLEC Acting Deputy Director for Programme, Dipl. Ing (BA) Cahya Kusuma Ratih, S.ST, MT. Followed by remarks from the Director of BC-BAT, Thailand, Hon. Chaowalit Yutthanawa, the Principal of SMKN 3 Denpasar, Drs. Anak Agung Bagus Wijaya Putra, M.Pd, and the Principal of SMKN 9 Bandung, Dr. Anne Sukmawati Kurnia Dewi, M.M.Pd. The event was officially opened by the Coordinator of Indonesian SEAMEO Centres, Dr. Gatot Hari Priowirjanto.

The webinar was participated by 94 students from Common ASEAN Tourism Curriculum (CATC) vocational school consortium each day. On the first day, the material presented in this webinar was focused on “Thai Culinary and Popular Cuisine”, led by Mrs. Anak Agung Ari Sutraningsih, SS, from SMKN 3 Denpasar as the moderator. There are 3 speakers presented on the first day, they were: Mr. Marc Alfer Seville, Ms. Pavita Unpang, and Ms. Suwannee Thammaratthara from BC-BAT.

On the second day, moderated by Mr. Yadi Suryadi, S.Pd from SMKN 9 Bandung, focused on “Construct and Ticket Promotional International Airfares”. Ms. Prattana Sutthisak, Mrs. Natkrita Chairumkoon, and Mr. Marc Alfer Sevilla from BC-BAT delivered the materials. The webinar was closed by Mrs. Kulisara Suwan, the Deputy Director of Academic of BC-BAT.
SEAMEO RETRAC AND SEAMEO SEAMOLEC WEBINAR SERIES COLLABORATION: CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS FOR TEACHERS

SEAMOLEC’s collaboration with SEAMEO RETRAC in organizing a webinar series since 2018 continues until 2022. Webinars are held once a month with the theme Improving the Quality of Learning in the Southeast Asia Region. SEAMOLEC facilitates SEAMEO RETRAC in terms of administration and technical administration of webinars, such as providing a webinar registration platform, webinar live streaming and recording, as well as the certificates. Meanwhile, SEAMEO RETRAC provides webinar materials, resource persons, and webinar presenters.

The latest 2022 webinar series was conducted in February 2022 with 186 participants from various countries. Through a video presentation, Dr. Anita Caplano Oblina from SEAMEO RETRAC delivered webinar material on Critical Thinking for Teachers.

The key points discussed in this webinar are 1) what is critical thinking for teachers?, 2) how to build critical thinking?, and 3) how can teachers promote critical thinking in their lessons? From the material presented, Dr. Anita summarizes that critical thinking lies at the heart of education. Without critical thinking, learning is just memorizing, without application. For students, critical thinking skills mean the difference between understanding content and a deeper understanding of what they know and why the information is important. Deeper understanding translates into higher grades, better understanding of complex ideas, better decision making, not being manipulated with advertisers and fake news, strengthening their value, and critical awareness with lifelong application beyond school.

After showing the presentation video, the webinar agenda was followed by a question and answer session. Interesting question addressed by a participant. He asked, “how can we determine whether the activities we provide in class are able to develop students’ critical thinking skills?” Dr. Anita responded, “One of the indicators we include critical thinking in our class is that we use higher order thinking skills (HOTS). HOTS is applied by asking students to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate. Thus, if in a class activity we ask students to analyze, synthesize, or evaluate something, we have provoked students’ critical thinking skills.” The webinar session closed with an announcement about a quiz that must be answered by participants to be able to get a webinar certificate.
TECHNOLOGY-ENABLED INNOVATION IN EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA (TIESEA)

The increase of school participation to higher education in Southeast Asia is not accompanied by the encouraging quality of learning outcomes. The unskilled, unmotivated teachers, unprepared students, and less attention of school management in improving teaching and learning quality has been the issues for dismal learning outcomes. The shortage of workers with adequate job-ready skills is also a problem in Southeast Asia. Moreover, during the COVID-19 era, school closures tend to increase drop-out rates, which tend to disproportionately affect adolescent girls in developing countries.

Experience of living through COVID-19 has highlighted the need to increase the use of education technology (edtech) in teaching and learning. The challenges of inequality in access due to limited information communication and technology (ICT) infrastructure, while providing impetus to governments to overcome these barriers to ensure sustainable access to education across all income groups. There is a new impetus to explore greater use of digital technology in the delivery of education and training. Strengthening Southeast Asia's knowledge and capacity on edtech will mitigate some of the impact of COVID-19 by helping countries modernize their education system while preparing for future pandemics.

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) sees this condition as a problem as well as a challenge that needs to be resolved. As such, ADB requested a technical assistant to conduct a diagnostic assignment of what works in edtech in Southeast Asia countries, particularly in Cambodia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and Vietnam. The diagnostic assignment also covers the identification at what level technology solutions can be applied based on ‘edtech readiness’ of countries, and pilot edtech interventions accordingly. The technical assistant has four main outputs as follows,

1. Assessment and diagnostics of what works in edtech;
2. Testing edtech products and services in the four countries;
3. Impact of edtech interventions is evaluated in the four countries; and
4. Capacity building and roadmap for wider adoption of edtech products and services.

As an expertise institution in distance learning, SEAMOLEC pays countless concern to the utilization of edtech which is also considered as one of the competencies in distance learning. As such, SEAMOLEC takes part in this project and works closely with Prof. Paulina Pannen, the Indonesia country expert for this project.
Several activities related to this project were successfully conducted. SEAMOLEC research teams have completed the analysis on assessment and diagnostic of what work in edtech in Indonesia referred to the five pillars developed by the ADB's education sector group. The five pillars cover infrastructure, government, schools/teachers, parents/students, as well as providers. The framework attempts to assess as follows.

Moreover, the results of the Edtech Readiness Assessment have been presented in the country workshop; The Knowledge Sharing/Ideation Workshop on Technology-Enabled Innovation in Southeast Asia was conducted virtually on February 10, 2022. The workshop was actively participated by teachers that shared their experiences in conducting distance learning and their expectation to become more advanced in edtech integration in teaching and learning. The edtech companies shared about what they have accomplished in promoting edtech in teaching learning. The representative of the Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology (MoECRT) also shared about activities and programmes that have been performed, what is being performed, as well as the future plans to promote the improvement of teacher competencies in edtech integration into teaching and learning.
Following the ideation workshops, a regional workshop was conducted to provide an opportunity to share the country’s diagnostic reports as well as the proposed interventions plans for each country – Cambodia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam. TIESEA Regional Webinar, “Edtech in Asia: What works?” was conducted virtually on March 16, 2022. The workshop presented the TIESEA key experts; Dr. Philip Uys, Dr. Deborah Wyburn, and Dr. Tim Denny, in addressing ‘The State of the Southeast Asia Region for Education, Innovation, Technology, and Impact’. This workshop also invited experts from the ADB’s education technology expert group; Jeffery Jian Xu, the Director of SEAMEO Secretariat Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, as well as a global distinguished professor of edtech Prof. Stephen Heppell, for enlightening the audience in creating learning environments.

The next chapter of the TIESEA project is to conduct a pilot intervention. The design and implementation of the edtech products are expected to be done in close collaboration with participating school systems and training providers. The intervention will be focusing on teachers and schools at Junior High Schools and will run for one year. The impact on educational attainment and the quality of learning also will be rigorously evaluated. The initial preparation meeting also has been conducted on March 8, 2022. Working closely with MoECRT the initial preparation aimed to identify the potential school and teacher candidates as well as to discuss the best strategies in advancing teacher competencies in edtech.

The project is expected to undertake capacity-building workshops and host a major international conference during 2023 to share the findings of the project and to widely disseminate the strengths and areas for development in the key interfaces between schools, homes, families, and technology.
E-LEARNING BENCHMARKING VISIT OF PPPPTK IPA

On March 8, 2022, SEAMOLEC received a benchmarking visit from the Centre of Teachers and Education Personnel Development and Empowerment in Science (PPPPTK), Bandung, in a mission to discuss the e-learning system. On that occasion, PPPPTK IPA informed the meeting that they have developed a Learning Management System (LMS) containing 36 courses. They had also conducted assisted training using the LMS with 1,400 participants. Furthermore, PPPPTK targets to develop one hundred courses with 40 participants each. In order to achieve this target and organize a better e-learning program, PPPPTK IPA conducted benchmarking to various open and distance education providers or institutions, one of them is SEAMOLEC.

SEAMOLEC explained the e-learning system that was developed and conducted, from the learning content, the technical implementation, to the platform that had been developed. For the learning content, SEAMOLEC specifies materials related to the digital learning material development. These contents are utilized to conduct training, both online and offline. Meanwhile, the established e-learning platforms are sumberbelajar.seamolec.org, mooc.seamolec.org, lms.seamolec.org, and one supporting platform; etraining.seamolec.org.

Beside the presentation about the e-learning system in each institution, the benchmarking agenda was filled with discussions about the assessment process, technical implementation, and content formats for e-learning. Furthermore, PPPPTK IPA plans to collaborate with SEAMOLEC in the implementation of e-learning. PPPPTK IPA will be focused on developing learning content, while SEAMOLEC will take the role as a platform developer.
SEAMOLEC TAILOR-MADE ODL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME FOR UMT

Tailor-made ODL Assistance Programme (TOAP) is a new service provided by SEAMOLEC based on the board of directors’ instruction. This programme is an addition to the previous four core tasks of the centre in the field of open and distance learning (ODL), namely training, research and development, information dissemination, and consulting services.

The TOAP development was created based on the design of the ODL model development which has been carried out in the previous year. In this case, the previously developed ODL model implementation can be a reference to this service.

Universitas Muhammadiyah Tangerang (UMT) has participated in an ODL development assistance programme for e-Learning in 2021. The programme’s objective as the output of the mentoring programme is the ODL system for the Islamic Religious Education Department. The targeted students are Indonesians who are working in Taiwan.

Several meetings have been held, both at SEAMOLEC on March 10, 2022 and at UMT on March 24, 2022, resulting in a plan to sign a memorandum of agreement (MoA) which is planned in the near future. Several agreements made for the TOAP in 2022 are as follows.

1. SEAMOLEC will continually provide its server to be used by UMT for the PAI department ODL programme until 2023.

2. SEAMOLEC will assist UMT in developing the LMS guidelines based on the respective roles of administrators, lecturers, tutors, managers, and students.

3. SEAMOLEC consulting services for technical assistance related to the login structure on LMS

4. Training programmes to strengthen the competency of lecturers, course managers, and tutors in the form of

   a) Training for PAI department lecturers in the 2nd to 8th semesters. In 2021 SEAMOLEC provided the same training for lecturers in the 1st semester. However, in the training in 2022, SEAMOLEC’s role is more to assist the implementation of the training programmes, in which the instructors from UMT are alumni of SEAMOLEC’s training in 2021.

   b) Training for tutors at UMT in face-to-face, and training for tutors in Taiwan in online mode.

   c) LMS technical training for operators and administrators.

   d) Microlearning Teaching Material Development Training for all UMT lecturers

5. Merdeka Belajar Kampus Merdeka (MBKM) programme for lecturers and students involved in the development of the ODL PAI UMT Taiwan programme:

   a) A certificate will be awarded to students who assist lecturers in developing LMS learning tools (e-modules and learning media) for 2nd to 8th semesters

   b) A certificate will be awarded to the best Lecturer in SEAMOLEC training for LMS implementation.
COLLABORATION OF SEAMOLEC AND TRIPLE I IN ENHANCING FUTURE LEARNING FOR SOUTHEAST ASIA

To provide more excellent programmes, SEAMOLEC always explores for opportunities of cooperation with other institutions. Recently SEAMOLEC started a communication with Institute for Information Industry or Triple I, a non-governmental organization established to promote effective application of information technology, located in Taiwan. Looking at common objectives between Triple I and SEAMOLEC to empower and enhance the future learning in Southeast Asia, both institutions agreed to have joint programmes in the near future.

As a first step, Triple I invited SEAMOLEC to the International Cooperation Joint Ceremony of the 2022 Metaedu Smart Education Expo on March 22, 2022. The event brought together educational leaders, institutions, and professional experts to share their insights on innovative education and strategies in the edtech industry. Mr. Yudistira Wahyu Widiwasana, SEAMOLEC Acting Director, delivered his remarks in the event through a prerecorded video.

The focus of cooperation between SEAMOLEC and Triple I will be in exploring research on potential technology and services to be implemented in teaching and learning activities. Both institutions will work closely in designing, developing, and delivering creative programmes and other positive approaches to ensure learners’ performances, especially in preparing education to welcome the postpandemic era in the near future.
SEAMOLEC’S 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

This year SEAMOLEC tuned 25 years old. On February 27, 1997, SEAMOLEC was first established in Jakarta to serve the region particularly in Open and Distance Learning (ODL) field. SEAMOLEC then keep on innovating and produce programmes with significant impacts according to its mandates.

Nowadays, due to the rising number of Covid-19 case in Indonesia, particularly in Jakarta, SEAMOLEC unfortunately needs to conduct its birthday celebration online. The celebration was held internally involving all staff centre. The Acting Director, Mr. Yudistira Wahyu Widiasana gave his remarks to congratulate all staff and their efforts over the years for the centre. He also wishes SEAMOLEC to grow bigger and stronger in the future.

To highlight the achievements made by the centre, there was also a video called the 25 Years of Servicing Southeast Asia: SEAMOLEC’s Milestones being played during the online celebration. It featured the annual greatest accomplishment of the centre starting from the year 1997 to 2021. It will also be available on our social media accounts for public to watch.

Mr. Fazhar Restu Fauzi, SEAMOLEC IT Network Manager, and Mr. Timbul Pardede, SEAMOLEC Training Expert, were invited to share their memories and expectation to the centres. Video of SEAMOLEC staff delivering congratulatory messages to the centre was also being played. No to mention the congratulatory messages from SEAMOLEC’s stakeholders. The online celebration was closed by a prayer.
WHO IS WHO?

MR. YUDISTIRA WAHYU WIDIASANA
SEAMOLEC ACTING DIRECTOR

Starting January 1, 2022, Mr. Yudistira Wahyu Widiasana, or known as Pak Yudi is appointed by the Secretary General of the Ministry of Education Culture Research and Technology (MoECRT) of Indonesia to be the Acting Director of SEAMOLEC. He will be active in this position until the new SEAMOLEC Director is appointed. At the same time, Pak Yudi is also the Deputy Director for Administration of SEAMOLEC since the year 2020.

Pak Yudi is a loving father of two children, he received his master’s degree in Administration field. He loves the dynamic working atmosphere of SEAMOLEC and enjoy working together with all staff Centre. In his leisure time, he likes to ride bicycle and play tennis.
Name: Razario Sandiko Romansyah  
Date and Place of Birth:  
Tangerang Selatan, 12 Desember 2021  
Time: 19:36 WIB  

Alhamdulillah.. We are very grateful to Allah SWT for the birth of our first son who increasingly complements the happiness of this small family. Hopefully, Rio becomes a child, proud of his parents, nation and country. Aamiin
Our highest appreciation goes to the previous 6 Directors of SEAMOLEC. They have made all innovation possible.