THE BGP OF WEST PAPUA PROVINCE COLLABORATES WITH SEAMOLEC TO IMPROVE EDUCATIONAL QUALITY IN REMOTE AREAS
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Newsletter Management:
Advisor: SEAMOLEC Board of Directors
Editor in Chief: Aline Almandha
Editors: Zahrani Balqis
Author: SEAMOLEC Staff
Designer: Yusmar Hadi Saputra
Photographer: Agun Gunawan, MP Staff

Any comments and information you wish to contribute, please contact Marketing and Publication Division: mpteam@seamolec.org

SEAMOLEC Office:
Jl. Cabe Raya, Pondok Cabe, Tangerang Selatan 15418, Indonesia.
Phone: (62-21) 7423725, 7434154
Fax: (62-21) 7422276
Website: www.seamolec.org
Email: secretariat@seamolec.org

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

SEAMOE ASSOCIATE MEMBER COUNTRIES
Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Kingdom of Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and United Kingdom

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FROM DIRECTOR’S DESK

Assalamualaikum warahmatullahi wabarakatuh!

Dear SEAMOLEC-mates!

It is with great pleasure that I introduce the latest edition of our newsletter. In these unprecedented times, staying informed and connected has never been more important. That is why we always aim to bring you the most up-to-date and relevant information in the field of Open and Distance Learning (ODL).

This year SEAMOLEC celebrated its 26th anniversary, exactly on 27 February 2023. Since its establishment in the year 1997, SEAMOLEC has been developing and promoting enhancement access to education through ODL. The centre has contributed significantly to the growth of distance education in Southeast Asia, particularly through the development of numerous learning models and resources.

Over the years, SEAMOLEC also provides training and professional development opportunities for educators, helping them to enhance their skills in using technology to support teaching and learning.

This issue of SEAMOLEC Info is the first edition of the year. The newsletter is packed with SEAMOLEC’s latest programmes and highlighted activities within the first four months of 2023. In celebrating its anniversary, SEAMOLEC hosted three series of international webinars. The first one is called SMILES (SEAMOLEC Mini Lecture Series) Now! This event was held to launch SEAMOLEC’s 6 new courses in 2023, informing audience about the benefits of each course, and how to participate. Followed by the Regional Webinar on Reimagining Open and Distance Learning in Southeast Asia. This event aims to increase awareness and understanding about the current state of ODL in SEAMEO member countries. The last one is the International Webinar on Internet Offline: Promoting Digitalization in Remote Areas which discussed about alternative strategies to apply digital learning in remote areas through the relevant use of hardware, platforms, and applications.

Dr Wahyudi
SEAMOLEC DIRECTOR

activities, such as visitation, exhibition, and signing of cooperation documents. The centre also has opened its online training classes starting in March 2023 for two updated topics: Video-based Micro Media and Animation-based Micro Media. You can read the whole articles presented in this edition.

We hope that this newsletter serves as a valuable resource for you, providing interesting information and inspiring new ideas. As always, we welcome your feedback and encourage you to share your thoughts with us.

Thank you for your continued support to SEAMOLEC.

Happy reading!
A BOOT CAMP FOR SOUTHEAST ASIAN TEACHER TO BOOST MEDIA AND INFORMATION LITERACY SKILLS

Are you familiar with the term media and information literacy (MIL)? It is considered as the essential ability to access, analyze, evaluate, and communicate information in a variety of formats and platforms, including traditional and digital media. It involves understanding how information is produced, disseminated, and consumed, as well as the potential biases and inaccuracies that may exist in various sources. It also includes the ability to critically evaluate and use the information to solve problems, make decisions, and communicate effectively.

MIL is expected to empower individuals to be active and responsible in using global information effectively and ethically. This is important, especially for teachers across the world who will be the ones spreading knowledge to students.

Within this idea, the alumni of the U.S. Department of State—supported by the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Kuala Lumpur—initiated a three-day virtual boot camp on February 8-10, 2023. The boot camp aimed to train hundreds of teachers and teacher educators from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Thailand about media and information literacy (MIL). There were total 109 participants selected from all 5 Southeast Asia countries to participate in this exciting bootcamp.

SEAMEO Regional Open Learning Centre (SEAMOLEC) was involved in the programme as a collaborative partner in recruiting teachers to apply to the boot camp. Through the dissemination of social media postings, SEAMOLEC invited teachers and education personnel to joint the event.
Prior to the event, all participants were grouped into 6. For the first time, they met in the virtual networking session. in this session, participants and facilitators shared their expectations and create a relationship before the actual date.

The boot camp was opened by the Director of the UNESCO Regional Science Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, Mr. Mohamed Djelid and U.S. Ambassador to Malaysia, Mr. Brian D. McFeeters. Every day there were three speakers who shared their knowledge related to media and information literacy. The details can be accessed at https://aseanmil.org/asean-teachers-virtual-bootcamp-2023/.

At the end of the day, participants were encouraged to do some tasks; such as posting their opinions on the collaborative board called Insight Gallery using the Google Jamboard platform and developing their individual action plans based on the UNESCO competency in media and information literacy. The action plans were expected to be implemented within three months after the boot camp. However, participants are allowed to extend the action plans beyond that provided time as well.

On the last day participants were also grouped based on the country. They were assigned to create action plans which are feasible and contextualized for implementation in their respective countries.

Active participants who join the whole sessions, submit their assigned action plan, as well as fill out the post-test and evaluation form are eligible for an e-certificate and internet subsidy fund from the organizers.
SMILES NOW: UNLOCKING POTENTIAL SEAMOLEC’S EXCITING NEW COURSES IN 2023

Celebrating its 26th anniversary, SEAMOLEC conducted its first webinar in the year 2023 entitled SMILES Now: Unlocking Potential SEAMOLEC’s Exciting New Courses in 2023.” SMILES, which stands for SEAMOLEC Mini Lecture Series, is SEAMOLEC’s term for sharing sessions conducted in a short duration.

This virtual event held on February 27, 2023, is aimed to launch and introduce SEAMOLEC’s six new courses in 2023, they are

1. Gamification in Online Learning,
2. Metaverse for Immersive Learning,
3. Interactive Learning through Social Media,
4. Microlearning: The Future of Post-Pandemic Teaching and Learning,
5. Internet of Things and Robotics, and
6. UI & UX Design.

The session was opened by SEAMOLEC Director Dr. Wahyudi, and continued by each speaker who presented the above-mentioned course titles. Various comments and questions were raised by the participants, mostly expressing their interest in SEAMOLEC’s new course titles and asking about how to participate. The event was summarized and closed by SEAMOLEC Deputy Director for Programme, Mrs Cahya Kusuma Ratih. She mentioned all courses which will be offered by SEAMOLEC to the public within this year and suggested participant access more related information by visiting SEAMOLEC official website and social media accounts.

Still in the celebration of SEAMOLEC’s 26th Anniversary, the centre also held a testimonial competition on the Instagram platform, one week before the actual anniversary day. SEAMOLEC invited followers who ever joined SEAMOLEC training, workshops, webinars, or other programmes. They are requested to share their special experience in form of testimonial posts. At the end of the SMILES Now event, the committee announced the 10 best testimonials who will receive SEAMOLEC’s exclusive merchandise.

See all winners at SEAMOLEC’s official instagram account @seameoseamolec
INTRODUCING METAVERSE TO
SMK BAKTI NUSANTARA 666
BANDUNG AND SMKN 1 DEPOK

In the beginning of 2023, SEAMOLEC received visits from two vocational high schools in West Java province. There were 98 students and 6 teachers from Software Engineering, Communication and Visual Design, and Animation majors of SMK Bakti Nusantara 666 Bandung visited SEAMOLEC on 23 February, 2023. Then, on March 6, 2023, 75 students and 6 teachers of Game and Software Development from SMKN 1 Depok also visited SEAMOLEC. Both schools came to get to know more about SEAMOLEC and learn about the use of metaverse in education.

The session was started with the introduction of SEAMOLEC by Community, Partnership, Marketing, and Publication Division Manager, Aline Almandha, and continued to the opening speech delivered by the Director of SEAMOLEC, Dr. Wahyudi. On the sharing session, Aji Wicaksono as a SEAMOLEC Training Officer shared the Unlocking Potential of the Metaverse as an Asset for the Future. This information is essential for students to understand the concept of the metaverse and how it could shape the future.

In the session, the students learned the basics of metaverse, its evolution, and applications in various fields. All the participants also learned on how metaverse can be used to enhance education and training. It enables people to learn and practice real-life skills in a safe controlled environment. Moreover, they got to understand how businesses and industries can leverage the metaverse to create new revenue streams, reach more customers, and improve their products and services quality.

Visitation ended with a question answer and discussion session. Some lucky participants received souvenirs from SEAMOLEC.
SEAMOLEC’S PARTICIPATION IN THE 52ND SEAMEO COUNCIL CONFERENCE AND SEAMEO SERVICE AWARD

SEAMOLEC Director Dr Wahyudi and the 2023 SEAMEO Service Awardee from SEAMOLEC, Mr Imam Syafii, participated in “The 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference” hosted by the Department of Education, the Philippine, in collaboration with the SEAMEO Secretariat. The event was held on February 8-10, 2023, at EDSA Shangri-La Hotel, Philippines.

In the opening session, all meeting participants and guests were welcomed by the Vice President of the Philippines, who also serves as the Secretary of Education. The ceremony was then followed by the remarks of the President of the SEAMEO Council Mr. Chan Chun Sing, the Minister of Education of Singapore, and a remark by the President of the Philippines, Mr. Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

On the same day, SEAMEO Secretariat also hosted a ceremony for SEAMEO Service Award. The award was launched with the aim of providing recognition and appreciation to staff members of the SEAMEO units who demonstrate exceptionally high level of achievement in work performance, innovation and creativity, professionalism, and commitment that contribute to the success of the units. Each SEAMEO unit selects the recipient of the SEAMEO Service Award annually based on a set of agreed criteria. This year’s SEAMEO Service Award from SEAMOLEC is Mr. Imam Syafii, SEAMOLEC Finance and Administration Officer, who is in charge of the centre’s budget planning.

On the second day, the meeting was set for the election and appointment of the new President of the SEAMEO Council. This year, Ms. Sara Zimmerman Duterte, the Vice President and Secretary of Education of the Philippines, was appointed as the President for the term. The working papers from the SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO Centres were reviewed and approved, including SEAMOLEC’s working paper.

One of the outcomes of “The 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference” was to announce that the next 53rd SEAMEO Council Conference would be held in 2025 in Brunei Darussalam.

Introducing Mr. Imam Syafii: The 2023 SEAMEO Service Awardee from SEAMOLEC

Mr Imam Syafii is SEAMOLEC Finance and Administration Officer who is in charge of the centre’s budget planning. He has been with SEAMOLEC team since 2011. He finished his Bachelor Degree in Aquaculture major from the Institute of Technology Bandung (ITB) in 2010. He got his Master’s Degree in Education Technology from the Sebelas Maret University (UNS), Solo, Indonesia in 2018.

He is a loving father for his two beautiful children. During his leisure time, he likes to share stories and going out with his family. Based on the vote by all SEAMOLEC members, this year he got selected as SEAMOLEC’s best employee and rewarded to attend the 52nd SEAMEO Council Conference as SEAMEO Service Awardee. He thanked SEAMOLEC for this honor and dedicated the award to his family and colleagues.
SHARING SEAMOLEC’S INITIATIVES ON THE 11TH SEAMEO-UNIVERSITY OF TSUKUBA SYMPOSIUM

The University of Tsukuba (UT), Japan has been one of the most active SEAMEO Affiliated Members. Over ten years, the SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba Symposium has been organised annually with different themes according to the needs and emerging issues in education between Japan and Southeast Asia.

This year SEAMEO Secretariat in collaboration with UT and supported by the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), Japan virtually organised the 11th SEAMEO-University of Tsukuba (UT) Symposium on 20–22 February 2023. The theme of the symposium was set as “Technology and Values-Driven Transformation in Education.”

SEAMOLEC as one centre under the auspices of SEAMEO was invited to be one of the speakers in the symposium. Dr Wahyudi, SEAMOLEC Director, presented SEAMOLEC’S Initiatives on Technology and Values-Driven Transformation in K-12 Education on February 21, 2023 morning session.

In his presentation, Dr Wahyudi shared a couple of initiatives that have been done by the centre to promote technology enhanced learning, specially targeted for teachers in Southeast Asia. The first one was in the year 2019, SEAMOLEC provided assistance to SEAMEO Secretariat in developing “Global Digital Literacy Online Course” using massive open online course (MOOC) platform. The second programme was just conducted recently, in early February 2023, SEAMOLEC was involved in “The ASEAN Teachers’ Online Media and Information Literacy Boot Camp” an initiative held by the alumni of the U.S Department of State and supported by the U.S Department of State and the U.S Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.
A SOUTHEAST ASIA COLLABORATION: THE REGIONAL WEBINAR ON REIMAGINING ODL

As a regional center that focuses on education quality improvement through Open and Distance Learning (ODL) in Southeast Asia, SEAMOLEC strives to share knowledge in order to serve the people to build a better future through education. As an effort to share the knowledge about those visions and perspectives, especially on ODL policies and practices, SEAMOLEC conducted "The Regional Webinar on Reimagining Open and Distance Learning (ODL) In Southeast Asia Countries." This regional webinar was also a part of SEAMOLEC's 26th-anniversary celebrations.

The webinar was officially opened by the Director General of Higher Education of The Ministry of Education, Culture, Research, and Technology of Indonesia Prof. Nizam, M.Sc., DIC., Ph.D. In his remarks, he acknowledged the ODL as an effective tool to reach the students as well as to build better education quality. He also hoped there will be future innovation and collaboration to improve the quality in education.

A very interesting Keynote Speech was delivered by Prof. Dr. Paulina Pannen, an ODL expert and a senior lecturer at Universitas Terbuka, Indonesia who represented the President of the Asian Association of Open University (AAOU). During her session, Prof. Pannen used a cartoon avatar depicting herself, which is a new experience for the webinar audience. She shared her thoughts and perspectives regarding the future of learning, especially on how students and teachers prefer to learn, how the advancement of technology and the new normal situation will change the scenario of education, the challenges it might bring, and the way forward.

SEAMOLEC also invited the representative of its Governing Board Members from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, and Thailand to join and share the practices as well as the current status on ODL of each country in a discussion session. They shared their vision and possible future steps regarding the growth of technology and how education can get along with that, especially on how educational policies can adapt to the condition. A special thank you goes to the honorable speakers:

1. Dr Meak Chantheng, the Deputy Director of the Vocational and Orientation Department, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Cambodia
2. Dr. Purwanto, Instructional Designer of the Centre for Data and Information, the Ministry of Education Culture Research and Technology (MoECRT), Indonesia
3. Associate Prof Dr Nurbiha A Shukor, the Chair of Malaysia Head of Public University E-Learning of the Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, Malaysia

4. Prof Dr Nu Nu Yi, the Pro-Rector of Yangon University of Distance Education (YUDE), Myanmar

5. Dr Melinda dP Bandalaria, the Chancellor of the University of the Philippines Open University, The Philippines

6. Associate Prof Dr Sita Yiemkuntitavorn, the Lecturer of Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU), Thailand.

There are more than 700 registered participants and more than 1400 users streamed on this webinar through SEAMOLEC’s YouTube channel. SEAMOLEC hopes that through the event, people will get insights on the ODL development around the Southeast Asia region. Moreover, SEAMOLEC also hoped the education stakeholders can work together in various collaborations to encourage a better culture for ODL within the Southeast Asia region.

The wedding of
Aqil Aulia Wafda Amin and
Addin Khaerunnisa Juswil

Wishing you a blessed and joyful marriage life.

Alhamdulillah, praise be to the God for all His blessings and gifts, a 3rd son has been born

Nareswara Rais Kurniawan
Born: Saturday, March 4, 2023

Congratulations on the birth of baby Nares. Hopefully he will become a pious, obedient, noble, wise, compassionate and loved by all just like the meaning of his name.

Proud parents: Haulia Arifiani (CPMP Division staff) & Nuke Aziz Kurniawan
PROMOTING DIGITALIZATION IN REMOTE AREAS, SEAMOLEC ORGANIZED AN INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

The COVID 19 pandemic have brought the sudden shift and significant demand towards digital or online learning. However, challenges such as unequal access to devices and internet connectivity, as well as a lack of appropriate skills among teachers and students, are hindering participation in online teaching and learning.

Despite that there are still schools with a lack of Internet access, and many also lack electricity, digital transformation to bring modern education must still be encouraged. For this reason, offline solutions may be the possibility in the foreseeable future. With the intention of seeking out potential solutions to the concerns, SEAMOLEC hosted an international webinar on the topic of Promoting Digitalization in Remote Areas on March 14, 2023.

Development of the offline digital library supported by open educational resources, adoption of local content, and utilization of free software as well as low-cost hardware are several applications of the offline internet to promote students’ active learning in remote areas. Session 1 has successfully captured the experience from open learning platforms providers in empowering access for offline environment. Mr. Nicolas Martignoni shared the experiences with MoodleBox, Dr. Jamie Alexandre shared the experiences with Kolibri, and Mr. Galton Saputra shared the experiences with Kiwix.

There are many practices of ICT-empowered learning. ICT and digital media which can stimulate and motivate students learning as well as create new learning experiences. Session 2 successfully portrayed several initiatives approaches to improve students’ learning including Village Telco project shared by Mr. Terry Gillett, promoting cheap internet and adoption in areas that have limited internet access in Indonesia shared by Dr. Onno W. Purbo, as well as the initiated project in providing offline learning resources by Koompi in Cambodia shared by Mr. Pichponereay Ngor.

The good practices that have been shared should be encouraged to reduce the digital divide gap. However, several challenges are still required to be addressed. First, the need to identify the low-cost, low-power, and low-complexity technologies that work in remote areas. Second, teachers are strongly encouraged to design students’ oriented learning, and identify possible pedagogy approaches empowered by offline technology. Third, the need to classify the contents and also the approaches based on the learner’s competency and their learning experience. Fourth, teachers’ professional development continuously needs to be promoted in order to equip them with sufficient competency to effectively use technology and engage learners in their learning.

In this digital era, it is crucial to ensure that technology-based education is accessible to all students, including those in remote areas. Investment in innovative solutions and collaboration should continue to be encouraged to bridge the digital divide and promote equitable access to education for all. Collaboration among governments, private sectors, communities, and other stakeholders is also the strongest possible way to achieve this big goal.
SEAMOLEC LAUNCHED ITS INITIAL ONLINE TRAINING IN 2023 WITH A FOCUS ON MICROLEARNING

SEAMOLEC regularly holds online training activities for educators and the general public throughout Indonesia. In 2023, SEAMOLEC started its first online training in March. Two elective topics were opened, namely video-based micromedia and animation-based micromedia, with a quota of 200 participants each, which was filled up in no time. As an appreciation for participants’ enthusiasm and as part of SEAMOLEC’s 26th anniversary celebration, the SEAMOLEC team awarded an additional quota of 30 participants for each training.

The online training took place from March 13 to 24, 2023, and was divided into 4 classes with 65 participants in each class. The training was delivered in Indonesian language.

Microlearning was selected as the focus of our online training topic for several reasons. Firstly, it meets the demand for fast and relevant learning in a constantly evolving education environment. Secondly, there is a growing trend towards self-directed learning, particularly after the pandemic, and microlearning provides quick and easy access to information. Thirdly, advances in learning technology, such as micrographic, microvideo, and simulation-based learning, have made microlearning more interactive, adaptive, and engaging. Lastly, the need for flexibility in distance learning is increasingly becoming a priority and microlearning provides a flexible approach that can be accessed anytime and anywhere with easy access from a variety of devices.

In conclusion, SEAMOLEC’s first online training program in 2023, with a theme on microlearning, was a resounding success. It demonstrated the increasing demand for fast, relevant, and flexible learning opportunities, and the importance of keeping up with technological advancements for education. SEAMOLEC plans to continuously provide online training on various interesting topics in the future.
The influence and impacts of SEAMOLEC for the community seems to be increasing every year. This can be concluded from the number of educational institutions that proposed cooperation with the Center. One of them is the Teacher Mobilization Centre, or translated to Indonesia as Balai Guru Penggerak (BGP) of West Papua province.

Under the supervision of the Directorate of Teachers and Education Personnel, the BGP of West Papua Province is assigned to develop and empower teachers, educators, educational personnel, prospective school principals, principals, prospective school supervisors, and school supervisors in the province. West Papua, as a province located in the remote area, is making various efforts to provide the best access to education for the local community.

As an institution that focuses on distance education, SEAMOLEC is expected to assist the BGP of West Papua Province’s need to provide information and services to improve teachers competency in the implementation of the Merdeka Curriculum.

Responding to this need, SEAMOLEC is assisting them in the development of e-learning based on RaspBerry Pi technology. This is a mini server containing various content that can be accessed without using the internet, named the Awan Penggerak. In 2016, SEAMOLEC developed a similar product and has implemented it in various regions, both in Indonesia and other countries in Southeast Asia.

The Awan Penggerak development stage started with needs analysis, planning, and prototyping of e-learning systems and optimization of various administrative and learning functions, development and updating of digital materials, teachers training to access learning content, and the last is program monitoring and evaluation.

On March 8-10 2023, the BGP of West Papua Province visited SEAMOLEC to map the learning content on the Awan Penggerak. Later, the Awan Penggerak is expected to be contained with learning materials in the form of text, video, audio, electronic books, as well as self-assessment. In the same occasion SEAMOLEC and the BGP of West Papua Province also signed a Memorandum of Agreement document.
SEAMOLEC’S EXHIBITION BOOTH AT THE PESTA RAKYAT OF THE BKKBN BANTEN PROVINCE

The National Population and Family Planning Agency (BKKBN) of Banten province held a Regional Coordination Meeting (Rakorda) in the Multatuli Hall of the Regional Secretariat of Lebak Regency on Tuesday, 14 March 2023. This event held to increase the synergy and collaboration of stakeholders in Banten province, as well as partners in accelerating the achievement of the Bangga Kencana (family development, population and family planning) programme targets, and accelerating the reduction of stunting rates.

In the event, BKKBN organised a Pesta Rakyat (a celebration dedicated to communities) which consisted of a pasar rakyat (a market dedicated to communities, usually the price is cheaper than the average price) and an exhibition. As one of BKKBN partners, SEAMOLEC was also invited to participate in the exhibition session by setting up a booth to introduce augmented and virtual reality (AR/VR).

In the exhibition, SEAMOLEC not only explained about AR/VR, but also shared how it can be integrated into education. On the same occasion, SEAMOLEC also exhibited a virtual space with a metaverse concept, where users could communicate with each other virtually and explore an attractive virtual environment. To increase the attractiveness of exhibition visitors, SEAMOLEC gave challenges in the form of quizzes. Visitors who successfully complete it got merchandises from SEAMOLEC.

Deputy for Family Planning and Reproductive Health of the BKKBN, dr. Eni Gustina, also visited the SEAMOLEC exhibition booth. She said that this technology was very interesting and useful in socializing the BKKBN programmes. She thought AR and VR technology can help make it easier for people to understand and adopt the programs.

Within the Banten BKKBN Coordinating Meeting which was attended by the Representatives of the Office of the Governor of Banten, Deputy of Lebak distric, and representatives of all regencies/cities in Banten Province, was also officially announced the cooperation between SEAMOLEC and BKKBN of Banten Province. This cooperation is expected to support the various programmes of BKKBN.
5 SEAMEO CENTRES JOINED THE SMART CITY SUMMIT AND EXPO AT METAEDU 2023 TO PROMOTE STEAM EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND BEYOND

SEAMOLEC along with other centres, namely SEAMEO INNOTECH, Philippines, SEAMEO RECSAM, Malaysia, SEAMEO STEM-ED, Thailand, and SEAMEO QITEP in Sciences, Indonesia visited the big annual event called the Smart City Summit and Expo at METAEDU 2023 in Taipei, Taiwan, held from March 28-31, 2023.

The Expo was organized by the Digital Education Institute, Institute for Information Industry (III), and was held in conjunction with the 2023 Smart City Summit & Expo. The Expo brought together a diverse group of stakeholders, including educators, policymakers, technology experts, and innovators, to explore the latest developments in global education technology trends and policies, as well as the future of education.

The event was focused on improving learning equality through online courses, lifelong learning, and other similar models. The Expo included parallel expos and workshops, which provided insights and applications from smart education to smart cities. The Expo explored ways to leverage technology to improve education outcomes and promote equity in learning. Additionally, the Expo showcased the latest educational technologies, including artificial intelligence, virtual reality, and gamification, among others.

The various innovative technologies and approaches that are being developed to transform the education landscape were fascinating. The keynote speeches, panel discussions, and presentations were all informative and engaging. The networking opportunities were also invaluable, allowing participants to connect with other professionals and experts in the field.

SEAMOLEC Director, Dr Wahyudi, was also invited as one of the panelists in the METAEDU Forum on March 29, 2023, held at the Administration for Digital Industries Pavilion in Taipei, Taiwan. The event, was attended by 60 people and moderated by Dr. Yi-Jing Lin, the CEO of L Labs Inc.

The other panelists were James Chu, Chairman & CEO of ViewSonic, Jack Vinijtrongjitt, Co-Founder & CEO of AAG Ventures, Marcin Myśliwczyk, Advisor of EdTech Impact and Education Alliance Finland, and Patrick Brothers, Co-CEO of HoloniQ (Virtual).
The panel discussion focused on the future of education technology, learning equality, and product certification. Dr. Yi-Jing Lin opened the discussion with a question about the direction in which education is moving. Specifically, she asked if it would be towards Metaverse or Generative AI, or something entirely different. The panelists shared their insights and experiences, with some expressing their belief that the future of education will involve a combination of both Metaverse and Generative AI technologies.

The second question focused on the impact of these technologies on learning equality. The panelists discussed whether or not these technologies would help all learners get better access to education and learn better, or if they would widen the gap between rich and poor students. There was some agreement that these technologies could potentially widen the gap, but there was also recognition that they could be used to bridge the divide.

Finally, the panelists were asked whether or not it was important to certify educational products. Some panelists expressed their belief that it was crucial to certify educational products, while others felt that it was challenging to do so given the constantly changing nature of technology.

On the same day, all SEAMEO Centres, the Institute for Information and Industry (III), and several universities in Taiwan agreed to have collaboration on the STEAM education programme implementation. It was highlighted with the cooperation launching ceremony among all parties.
On March 13-14, 2023, SEAMOLEC Director, Dr. Wahyudi, had the opportunity to attend the STEP program kick-off meeting and project co-design workshop at the Platinum room 1 (Ground Floor) of the Intercontinental Hotel Bangkok. The workshop was organized by Impact Hub with support from Chevron Corporation, and it aimed at strengthening the capacity of pre-service programs in the region and Kazakhstan. The SEAMEO STEM-ED Centre collaborated with local implementing partners in engaging government agencies and teacher education institutes in five countries to implement a program of faculty development about the use of Core Practices and STEM Learning.

The workshop had several objectives, including engaging partners from Thailand, Kazakhstan, and Indonesia in identifying their local needs, local contexts, and government policies with regard to pre-service programs. It also aimed to share insights on proven programs in strengthening pre-service programs from the US and internationally and explore possible alternatives to address pressing needs in pre-service programs. The workshop also focused on identifying common needs in pre-service programs and selecting the most viable program interventions which all partners agree. Other objectives included exploring the overarching vision and goal, as well as the intervention logic model and strategies of the STEP program which are aligned with the participating country’s national agenda. It aimed at establishing relationships and trust among participating partners and agreeing on principles of work, administration, monitoring & evaluation, communication, and reporting requirements among partners.
The workshop had a total of 25 face-to-face participants and 2 virtual participants. The participants were from Chevron staff, Chevron guests (SEOHUN), SEAMEO STEM-ED Governing Board Member (Indonesia) & staff, Caravan of Knowledge (Kazakhstan), Invited Speakers (virtual), and SEAMEO STEM-ED’s Partners (Teachers’ Council, Thai Universities, SEAMOLEC).

During the workshop, there were several sessions, including plenary sessions, group discussions, and breakout sessions. The plenary sessions involved keynote speeches from the invited speakers, and the group discussions and breakout sessions were focused on identifying the common needs in pre-service programs, exploring viable program interventions, and developing the overarching vision and goal of the STEP program.

During the workshop, Dr Wahyudi from SEAMOLEC and Prof Dr Nyayu Khodijah, S.Ag., M.Si the Rector of UIN Raden Fatah Palembang presented the situation of pre-service programs in Indonesia. Their presentation provided valuable insights into the challenges faced by pre-service programs in Indonesia and the ways in which the STEP program can help address those challenges.

Overall, the workshop was informative and engaging, and it provided an excellent opportunity for participants to collaborate, share ideas, and develop a viable program intervention for strengthening pre-service programs in the region and Kazakhstan. The workshop outcomes will contribute significantly to the development of a program of faculty development about the use of Core Practices and STEM Learning, which will lead to the redesign of methods courses, training for mentor teachers and a practicum program focused on the core practices and STEM learning, the creation and sharing of new instructional materials, and the creation of a learning platform to share new curriculum guides, classroom videos of teachers using core practices and STEM learning, case studies of teachers, and so forth.
FAREWELL AND GRATITUDE

All SEAMOLEC team wanted to take a moment to express our heartfelt congratulations on this new chapter in your life as an exciting opportunity for personal and professional growth. Over the years, you have been an invaluable member of our team, consistently demonstrating your dedication, expertise, and passion for your work. Your innovative ideas, collaborative spirit, and unwavering commitment have left an indelible mark on our organization. We send best wishes for your continued success and happiness in the future. Please remember that the door will always be open for you here at SEAMOLEC.

SAMPAI JUMPA DAN TERIMA KASIH

Segenap keluarga besar SEAMOLEC dengan tulus mengucapkan selamat atas babak baru dalam hidup Anda. Selama bertahun-tahun, Anda telah menjadi anggota tak ternilai dari tim kami, secara konsisten Anda telah menunjukkan dedikasi, keahlian, dan semangat yang luar biasa terhadap pekerjaan Anda. Ide-ide inovatif, semangat kolaborasi, dan komitmen yang tak tergoyahkan telah meninggalkan kesan yang baik bagi SEAMOLEC. Ucapan terbaik kami untuk kesuksesan dan kebahagiaan Anda di masa depan. Ingatlah bahwa pintu selalu terbuka untuk Anda di SEAMOLEC.
Thank you

for your dedication, hard work, and wisdom. Your leadership has made a significant difference in SEAMEO as an organization. Wishing you a successful life ahead.

Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua Valenzuela
Director of SEAMEO Secretariat 2019-2023

Congratulations

on your new post as SEAMEO Secretariat Director. The big family of SEAMOLEC offers you the heartiest congratulations and support. Wishing you to achieve all the best in your new role.

Datuk Dr. Habibah Abdul Rahim
Director of SEAMEO Secretariat