Inaugural Edition
Voice of SEAMEO SEN

1st Issue, September - December 2013
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REMARKS BY THE ADVISOR

Alhamdulillah and congratulations to the staffs of SEAMEO SEN for its first and significant Bulletin.

It is indeed an achievement for the centre as the production of this issue came out within a very short time and with a small number of staffs. My compliments to Dr. Yasmin Hussain, the centre director of SEAMEO SEN, who professionally and diligently leading her team towards excellence so as to ensure the establishment of the SEAMEO SEN fulfills the Government of Malaysia’s hope to host a regional centre for special education needs in the South East Asia region. It is indeed a mammoth task for all the personnel in SEAMEO SEN to accomplish the expectations given to them but I personally believe that SEAMEO SEN will be able to accomplish its prime role as to promote and enhance special education needs among SEAMEO member countries.

Being the 20th centre and the youngest centre of SEAMEO, SEN has definitely a lot to learn and achieve. It is no doubt that in its journey there will be many obstacles and unforeseen challenges but I strongly assure that the centre will be given help and support from the Government of Malaysia as well as from the SEAMEO SECRETARIAT and SEAMEO member countries in its operational functions. SEAMEO SEN reflects the pride of Malaysia and also mirrors Malaysia’s commitment to provide a quality education in Special Education Needs. It is within the concept of Education for All that SEAMEO Regional Centre is initiated with the task to intensify research and development programs in the area of special education. I am hopeful that the role and functions of SEAMEO SEN will enhance the quality of Special Education and provide much needed support for those pupils of special needs as well as enhancing the professional growth of SEN educators in this region.

As a concluding note, I wish the centre all the best in its effort to attain its role. I am looking forward to go together with the centre’s eventful journey towards excellence. May Allah be always be with us in this honourable cause.

Thank You.

Y. Bhg. Dato' Sufa'at bin Tumin
Deputy Director General
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, MALAYSIA
and
SEAMEO SEN Governing Board, MALAYSIA
WELCOME NOTE BY THE CENTRE DIRECTOR

Assalamualaikum w.b.t and Salam 1 Malaysia.

First of all, I would like to congratulate SEAMEO SEN’s officers on the success of coming out with our very first Voice of SEAMEO SEN. We have gone through many hurdles but this is just a new beginning for us and the centre, and I call for all SEAMEO SEN’s staff to work together and embrace our Minister’s vision for Malaysia to be the regional reference centre for Special Education Needs (SEN).

I’m very pleased to share with our readers the information on SEN and not to forget the journeys and experiences that we faced from day one to what we are now.

On behalf of SEAMEO SEN, I would like to express our highest appreciation to the Minister of Education, Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin and the Government of Malaysia for the high determination and effort to bring SEAMEO SEN to Malaysia. Not to forget the individuals and organizations that contributed to the establishment and operational functions of SEAMEO SEN. From Ministry of Education, Malaysia: Dato’ Sufa’at bin Tumin, Deputy Director General, Mr. Bong Muk Shin, officer from Special Education Division, En. Tuan Sulaiman bin Wak, Rector of IPGM and officers from Policy and International Relations Division. From Melaka State; YAB Datuk Wira Ir. Hj. Idris bin Hj.Haron, Chief Minister of Melaka and YB. Datuk Hj. Md. Yunos bin Husin, Exco for Education, Higher Education, Science & Technology, Green Technology and Innovation. From SEAMEO: Dr. Witaya Jeradechakul, Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, our Governing Board Members, SEAMEO Secretariat officers, SEAMEO RECSAM’s officers and many more who has directly or indirectly contributed to the centre.

Personally, I would like to express my gratitude to be given the trust to head and administer the centre. Despite the challenges faced, I’m very positive our centre will be fully functional and operational soon. We are new and small to be compared to our other established SEAMEO’s sister centres. But I can assure you our goals are determined, with the focus to assist numerous educationalists throughout the region on SEN.

In issue of Voice of SEAMEO SEN, we would like to start with the introduction and background of the centre. We will be sharing more information on SEN from our member countries in our future issues.

On behalf of SEAMEO SEN, I would like to thank our readers for your support and I do hope this 1st issue of Voice of SEAMEO SEN be an informative source of information for everyone.

Thank you

Dr. Yasmin binti Hussain
Director
SEAMEO SEN
Salam Sejahtera and Warmest Welcome from SEAMEO SEN.

First and foremost I would like to congratulate the editorial Board of Voice of SEAMEO SEN for producing its first publication although it is only been two months since the centre’s establishment and within all the constraints and limited number of personnel. Thank you for allowing me to say few words as introductory remarks in this historic publication.

As the DEPUTY DIRECTOR of Training and Consultation for SEAMEO SEN, I would like to express my vision of the Training Division. Together with two training coordinators and the supporting staff, this division plans to conduct and give trainings to the teacher educators and teachers of Special Education Needs (SEN) in the South East Asia region. Our courses will be of varied approaches that encompass regular courses, in-country courses, customized courses, seminars and workshops.

In order to carry out these courses successfully it is vital for SEN to have a pool of SEN experts who will help us in our task so that the courses conducted are relevant and would contribute to the growth of expertise for our SEN educators. We also aim to ensure strong collaboration and active networking with experts, institutions and the community so as to provide a quality service in Special Education in this region and internationally. One of the means to achieve this is to set up an expertise directory that holds information of personnel and individuals who are experts in the SEN areas. These experts may be educators from various local, regional and international education institutions as well as NGO members and those involved extensively in Special Education.

This division will try to fulfill at its best to realize and materialize the Centre’s vision to promote and enhance special education needs among SEAMEO member countries and the mission to be a leading centre for quality Special Education Needs. No doubt we will face a lot obstacles and challenges ahead but we will strive for excellence in every endeavour that we do.

Thank you.

En. Azman bin Nordin
Deputy Director
SEAMEO SEN
ABOUT THE CENTRE

MOTTO
Strive For Excellence

VISION
To Promote and Enhance Special Education Needs Among SEAMEO Members Countries.

MISSION
Leading Centre for Quality Special Education Needs

PRIORITY AREAS
Intellectual Disabilities
Visual Impairment
Hearing Impairment
Gifted and Talented
SEAMEO SEN PERSONNEL

TRAINING AND CONSULTATION DIVISION

Pn. Mazmi binti Maarof
Training Coordinator

As the training coordinator for SEAMEO SEN, I hope that I can contribute significantly to the centre’s training division. The programmes that have been planned and will be carried out reflects the centre’s aim to provide quality training and educational programs in special education needs in this region. My experience as a teacher and teacher educator hopefully will be much relevant for this centre.

As a training coordinator I aspire to develop and conduct programs and courses that would help teacher educators and educators of SEN to grow professionally in their task of educating the students of special needs. No doubt there will be challenges and obstacles but hopefully with the support and encouragement from the personnel in SEAMEO SEN, SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO member countries in sha Allah we will succeed.

Pn. Monishah binti Md. Shah
Training Coordinator

As a Training Coordinator of SEAMEO SEN, I am responsible for the successful coordination and implementation of all training programmes. With collaborative effort from SEAMEO SEN’s staff I hope that the centre will be able to improve the quality of SEN education service in this region. SEAMEO SEN aims to be a reputable and established international organization in the region and my experience in human resource management will be much of contribution to SEAMEO SEN’s training division.

RESEARCH AND INNOVATION DIVISION

Pn. Hjh. Rozilawati binti Abdul Kadir
Researcher

My role as a researcher has given me the opportunity to serve and contribute to the development of Special Education in a holistic and comprehensive way. The duties and responsibilities entrusted to me will be discharged with the hope for the advancement of Special Education not only in Malaysia but also in Southeast Asia so as the fate of Special Education students will continue to thrive similarly as students from mainstream education.

Additionally, I also hope to gain knowledge and new experiences when given the opportunity to meet with teachers and special education experts from all over Southeast Asia countries through research works and conferences organized by SEAMEO SEN. Hopefully, the meetings and discussions will bear fruitful ideas and results for the development of Special Education in Southeast Asia.

En. Mohd Zulkarnain bin Abdul Wahab
Researcher

Being a graduate from Multimedia University, Melaka, I was groomed to be receptive to the teaching and learning using technology. It has indeed came in handy for me here at SEAMEO SEN, where I’m part of the Research and Evaluation team which focuses on the teaching and learning innovation for Special Education Needs learners.

I was previously attached with an International Training House, heading their Business & Training Development Department which focuses on sales and training. I have experienced planning, coordinating and organizing training programmes for various organization including government ministries and multinational corporations. Here at SEAMEO SEN, it is my goal to contribute to the innovation and development of the centre.
Pn. Era Zaffura binti Md. Sin
Administrative & Accounts Officer

As Administrative & Accounts Officer in SEAMEO SEN I am entrusted to manage the SEAMEO SEN’s administrative management and financial matters. With my experience and background in Accountancy I am positive that I would be able to oversee SEAMEO SEN’s operation within my best ability.

With the concept of growing together in line with SEAMEO vision and mission it is hoped and anticipated with a strong leadership and by adopting good governance that SEAMEO SEN shall excel in offering quality training and courses on special education among SEAMEO member countries within the region.

Our Team
HISTORY AND BACKGROUND OF SEAMEO SEN

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) is a regional intergovernmental organization established in 1965 among governments of Southeast Asian countries to promote regional cooperation in education, science and culture in the region. SEAMEO member countries are Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Cambodia, Socialist Republic of Vietnam, Lao PDR, Brunei Darussalam, Singapore, Philippines, Republic of the Union Myanmar and Timor Leste.

As an organization that has continued to nurture human capacities and explored the peoples' fullest potential, the SEAMEO maintains its work and aspirations for development with peoples of the region to make lives better in quality and equity in education, preventive health education, culture and tradition, information and communication technology, languages, poverty alleviation and agriculture and natural resources.

Located in Malaysia, SEAMEO Special Education Needs (SEN) is a regional centre that specializes in education to support the needs of children with different disabilities, gifted and talented children in South East Asia (SEA) region.

Functions of SEAMEO SEN

- Enhance the capacity of teachers, education personnel, education officers and specialist in Special Education through short term courses while recognizing the diversities in culture, needs and expectations
- Strengthen research, training and management activities through staff development, institutional partnership, technical assistance and mutual consultation
- Organize seminars, conferences, workshops and technical meetings on best practices and current topics for better understandings in special education
- Facilitate documentation and dissemination of information among institutions and users
- Support research on Special Education associated with changing global environment
- Promote the utilization of research results in the formulation of effective teaching and learning strategies in Special Education
- Encourage networking, partnership, collaboration and resource sharing among Special Education institutions in Member Countries, Associate Countries, other countries, agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGOs)
- Accelerate Special Education improvement and the development of marginalized sectors of society without prejudice, and
- Offer scholarships to SEAMEO member countries for sabbatical program at the centre
Children with Special Education Needs

**SEN Children** refers to individuals who have learning difficulties that require special learning needs and those with disabilities who need specialized learning environments compared to most children of about the same age.

Thus, SEN could mean that a child has at least one of these characteristics:

i. Intellectual disabilities

ii. Communication Problems

iii. Emotional and behavioural difficulties

iv. Hearing and Visual impairment

v. Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
Background of the establishment of SEAMEO SEN, MALAYSIA

- **March 2008 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
  The Ministry of Education (MOE) Malaysia stated its willingness to host Regional Centre for Special Education at the 43rd SEAMEC Conference.

- **January 2009 - Bangkok, Thailand**
  Malaysia’s proposal to establish SEAMEO SEN was endorsed to be presented at the 44th SEAMEC conference.

- **April 2009 - Phuket, Thailand**
  The establishment of SEAMEO SEN in Malaysia was approved at the 44th SEAMEC Conference.

- **June 2009 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
  The Malaysian Cabinet Ministers approved the proposal to establish a regional center for Special Education Needs in Malaysia.

- **January 2010 – Cebu, Philippines**
  Memorandum of Agreement, Staff Rules and Regulations and the Enabling Instrument that will enable Malaysia to establish SEAMEO SEN were approved in the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference.

- **October 2010 – Melaka, Malaysia**
  The Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia concurrently as the Malaysian Minister of Education officiated the temporary building for SEAMEO SEN at the Malay Women Melaka Teachers’ Training Institute.

- **June 2012 - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**
  The MOA between SEAMEO Secretariat and Malaysian Ministry of Education was signed.

- **May 2013 – Melaka, Malaysia**
  Dr. Yasmin Hussain was officially appointed as the First Centre Director of SEAMEO SEN Malaysia.

- **June 16 – Melaka, Malaysia**
  The temporary office is officially in operation and SEAMEO SEN begins its operation assisted by the Core Team members from the IPGK Perempuan Melayu Melaka
The Ministries Responsible for the Education of Special Needs Children in Malaysia

In line with the national education philosophy, the teaching and learning of SEN children shall focus on physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual development.

Programmes are conducted based on the policies and acts that are made by the Ministry of Education Malaysia:

Akta Pendidikan 1996, Bab 8.
Akta Pendidikan (Pindaan) 2002.
Peraturan -Peraturan Pendidikan (Pendidikan Khas) 1997.
Keputusan Jawatankuasa Dasar, Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia (Jawatankuasa Perancang Pendidikan (JPP), Mesyuarat Pengurusan Kementerian Pelajaran Malaysia, Jawatankuasa Kurikulum Pusat (JKP) dan Mesyuarat Pengurusan Jabatan Pendidikan Khas).

and international declarations:


The education program for SEN children is under the administration and supervision of three ministries:

Ministry of Education Malaysia (MOE)

The Ministry of Education shall provide the education for students with visual and hearing impairments as well as learning disorders who require special education needs.

Children with learning difficulties as listed below shall be under the responsibility of Ministry of Education:

- Down Syndrome,
- Mild Autism,
- Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder
- Mild Mental Retardation, and
- Specific Learning Problems Eg. Dyslexia
- Hearing difficulties and Visual impairment

The role and responsibilities of MOE are documented in the Education Act 1996, Education Rules and Regulations 1997 (Special Needs 1997, section II 3(2)). MOE has to provide Special Needs Schools and necessities for students with visual and hearing impairment. MOE also has to organize integration programmes for children with learning disorders together with visual and hearing impairment.

This should be made available in pre-school, primary, primary, secondary and vocational schools using exclusive and semi inconclusive teaching methods. The duration of learning period for primary school is six years, meanwhile it is five years for secondary and could be extended to an additional maximum of two years depending to the students’ needs.
The Ministry of Women, Family and Community Development provides education services for children with:

- Severe Physical Disabilities
- Average and Severe Mental Disorder
- Other disabilities that prevent the child to participate at the schools provided by the Ministry of Education, Malaysia
GOVERNING BOARD MEMBERS

SEAMEO SEN's operations, policies and programmes are monitored by Governing Board Members which consist of senior education officers from every SEAMEO member countries.

Dato' Sufaa't bin Tumin: MALAYSIA
Mr. Chan Sophea: CAMBODIA
Ms Yangxia Lee: LAO PDR
Dr. Dina S. Ocampo: PHILIPPINES
Mr. Bukit Hidup: BRUNEI DARUSSALAM
Dr. Sharifah Mariam Aljunied: SINGAPORE
Mr. Payom Chinnawong: THAILAND
Dr. Mudijito, A.K: INDONESIA
Dr. Myo Thein Gyi: MYANMAR
Assc. Prof Dr. Le Van Tac: VIETNAM

NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS

Courtesy Call to the Chief Minister of Melaka

KETUA Menteri, Datuk Wira Ir Idris Haron menerima kunjungan hormat dari Dr. Yasmin Hussain iaitu Pengarah Seameo Sen (South East Asia Minister of Education Organisation) bersama Ketua Pegawai Eksekutif (CEO) Perbadanan Hang Tuah Jaya, Kamarudin Md Shah di Pejabatnya, di Seri Negeri.


Serentak dengan pertemuan itu, Yasmin turut menyampaikan beberapa naskah buku mengenai Seameo Sen kepada Ketua Menteri.

Published by: Melaka Hari Ini, June 20th, 2013
Dr. Yasmin Dilantik Pengarah SEAMEO SEN

Tingkat Pengajaran & Pembelajaran Pendidikan Khas

DURIAN DAUN, 25 Januari

Dr. Yasmin Hussin ditangkap sebagai pengarah SEAMEO SEN yang baru beroperasi di Institut Pendidikan Guru Kampung Persekutuan Malaya. Melaka akan menjadi tuan rumah pos pengarah pertama pada September depan.

Pengarah SEAMEO SEN, Dr. Yasmin Hussin, membentuk SEAMEO SEN, sebuah organisasi antarabangsa untuk memperkuatkan marwah dan mutu pendidikan khas di negara anggota SEAMEO yang memerlukan operasi pada 25 Ogos 2009.

Katakan, negara anggota SEAMEO terdiri daripada Brunei, Kambuja, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Filipina, Singapura, Thailand, Timor Leste dan Vietnam.

Menjum, beliau memberitahu, SEAMEO SEN mempunyai peranan penting dan peranan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran Pendidikan Khas dalam 22 tahun dan guru baha Inggeris selama lima tahun.

Katakan, pada masa yang sama, guru dan bahan pelajaran yang digunakan dalam pengajaran dan pembelajaran Pendidikan Khas memerlukan peningkatan semula negara anggota.

Dr. Yasmin memberitahu, SEAMEO SEN akan menjadi pusat sementara bagi mengatur dan seminar serta penyelidikan.

Dr. Yasmin juga memberitahu, pesuah ini juga menjadi pusat untuk memberi bahan pelajaran yang lebih baik untuk pengajaran dan pembelajaran Pendidikan Khas.

Beliau menambah, melalui ini, malayu akan dapat memahami betul peranan SEAMEO SEN dalam membina bahan pelajaran yang lebih baik dan pada masa yang akan datang, sekolah dengan pendidikan khas akan diperuntukkan bagi SEAMEO SEN.
Empat Bidang Tumpuan SEAMEO SEN - Dr. Yasmin

Dr. Yasmin memberi penjelasan tentang empat bidang tumpuan SEAMEO SEN.

Dr. Yasmin

Published by: Melaka Hari Ini, July 20th, 2013
CHRONOLOGICAL EVENTS ON THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATIONAL OF SEAMEO SEN

Opening Ceremony of SEAMEO SEN – October 25th, 2010

On October 25th, 2010, the Minister of Education, Malaysia, Tan Sri Dato’ Haji Muhyiddin bin Haji Mohd Yassin has officially officiated the Opening Ceremony of SEAMEO SEN, temporary located at Level 2, Anjung Hikmah Complex, IPG Kampus Perempuan Melaju, Melaka, Malaysia.

Operational Meeting – June 25th, 2013

On June 26th, 2013, a meeting was held at SEAMEO SEN between the management and Special Education Division, Ministry of Education Malaysia. The agenda was on the procedures and operational of SEAMEO SEN located at Level 2, Anjung Hikmah Complex, IPGK Perempuan Melaju.

SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2013 – July 1st, 2013

The SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2013 was organized by the SEAMEO Secretariat from July 1st to 3rd, 2013 at Bangkok Marriott Hotel Sukhumvit, Bangkok, Thailand.

A total of 91 participants attended the meeting, comprising Centre Directors/Deputy Directors and key officials of the SEAMEO Centres/Network, and the Directorate and staff of the SEAMEO Secretariat. Representative from SEAMEO Associate Member; Australia; and Affiliate Members: British Council and University of Tsukuba, Dr. Yasmin Hussain, Centre Director, represented SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia.
The meeting was divided into several agendas/sessions throughout the three days:

I. Special Session for Centre Directors
II. Opening Formalities
III. Matters for Information/Discussion
IV. SEAMEO Unit’s Significant Accomplishment/Best Practices
V. Networking Sessions

The meeting ended with summary points being presented and acknowledged in the final plenary session.

Melaka State Education Post Exco Meeting – July 3rd, 2013

SEAMEO SEN was elected to be a member of the State’s Education Post Exco Meeting effective of July 3, 2013. The meeting chaired by State Education Exco, YB Datuk Hj. Md. Yunus bin Husin will be conducted weekly to discuss and aimed to solve education related issues.

During this first meeting, the Post Exco Meeting Members were introduced to SEAMEO SEN by En. Azman bin Nordin, representing the Centre Director.

Courtesy Call to the Rector and Deputy Rector of Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia (IPGM) – July 9th, 2013

A visit was organized to meet the Deputy Rector of Institut Pendidikan Guru Malaysia (IPGM) on July 9th, 2013 to formally declare that SEAMEO SEN has officially commenced its operation on June 16th, 2013.

At the moment, SEAMEO SEN will be operating from Level 2, Anjung Hikmah Complex, located in the premise of IPG Kampus Perempuan Melayu (IPG KPM) in Melaka. Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain also introduced her key personnel who were seconded from IPG KPM, En. Azman bin Nordin, Pn. Hjh Rozilawati binti Abd Kadir and Pn. Mazni binti Maarof.

During the meeting, the team was introduced by the Deputy Rector to the new Rector of IPGM, En. Tuan Sulaiman bin Wok. En. Tuan Sulaiman praised and congratulated the team for the effort shown. He left a remark advising the team to strive and make Malaysia proud.
Consultancy Meeting- July 23rd, 2013

Attendance:

IPGK Ilmu Khas: En. Shahrul Arba’ian Othman, Pn. Meskinah Talia
IPGK Raja Melewar: Dr. Lee Keck Cheong, Hjh. Zaharah Hj. Abdul Kadir
JPN Melaka: En. Md Aziz bin Lani
NCDRC UPSI: Dr. Noor Aini Ahmad
RNDTCIC: En. Ridhuan Abd Rahman, Pn. Siti Aminah Abu Hassan
UPSI: Dr. Kway Eng Hock
IPG Kampus Ipoh: Dr. Mohd Anuar Abdullah
Universiti Malaya: Prof. Madya Dr. Loh Sau Cheong
JPN Johor: En. Ab Rahman Hamdan
UKM: Dr. Mohd Hanafi Mohd Yassin

During the meeting, the Chairman introduced and briefed on the history and background of SEAMEO SEN from the day it was officiated, June 2009, by Y.A.B Tan Sri Dato’ Hj. Muhyiddin bin Hj. Mohd. Yassin.

The chairman also shared the roles and functions of the SEAMEO SEN as well as the Governing Board Members.

SEAMEO SEN’s 5-year plan was presented and discussed. Several suggestions were listed as conclusions:

- The attendees hoped there will be continuity in the programme run by the centre
- The attendees requested to be acknowledged as facilitator for ease in collaboration
- The attendees encouraged SEAMEO SEN to publish printed and online journal
- The attendees suggested SEAMEO SEN to start with course module development
- The attendees requested SEAMEO SEN’s participation in UM’s ‘Regional Conference’
On July 23, 2013, SEAMEO SEN organized a visit to meet Y.Bhg. Dato’ Sufa’at bin Tumin, the Deputy Director General of MOE, Malaysia and also one of the Governing Board Members representing Malaysia. The meeting was held at his office attended by the Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain, her deputy En. Azman bin Nordin, together with key officers, Pn. Hjh Rozilawati and Pn. Mazni Binti Maarof. Two officers from Special Education Division, Mr. Bong Muk Shin and Mr. Mad Kassim bin Malek were also present.

There were quite a number of matters discussed on that day. The meeting also touched on the detailed establishment of the centre in Malaysia. There was also a discussion on the Governing Board Members Meeting which will be held from 7th to 9th October 2013 at Hang Tuan Heritage Hotel, Melaka, Malaysia.

From left:
En. Mad Kassim Bin Malek, Pn. Hjh. Rozilawati Binti Abd Kadir, Dr. Yasmin Binti Hussain, Y.Bhg. Dato’ Sufa’at bin Tumin, Mr. Bong Muk Shin, En. Azman Bin Nordin, Pn. Mazni Binti Maarof
Operational Meeting – August 26th, 2013

On August 26th, 2013, a meeting was held at Bilik Masyuarat Seri Anugerik chaired by Y.Bhg. Dato’ Sufa at bin Tumin. The agenda was on the operational of SEAMEO SEN at Level 2, Anjung Hikmah Complex, IPGK Perempuan Melayu.

The agenda discussed were background and functions of SEAMEO SEN, the secondment of SEAMEO SEN Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain from IPGK Perempuan Melayu and the operational and development of SEAMEO SEN.

The group were given a tour around SEAMEO SEN centre.

Coincides with the meeting, was an Aidilfitri celebration hosted by SEAMEO SEN. Invitations were sent out to department heads and staff of IPGK Perempuan Melayu.

Aidilfitri Celebration – August 26th, 2013

Management Meeting – September 5th to 7th, 2013

A meeting was held on September 5th to 7th, 2013 at Bayu Beach Resorts, Port Dickson to discuss on the centre’s 1st Governing Board Meeting. The meeting was chaired by Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain attended by all key personnel.

The meeting presented and discussed the daily agendas of the Governing Board Meeting as well as going through the preparations checklist.
BENCHMARKING VISITS

Benchmarks visit to Thailand

On October 25, 2010 the Institute of Teacher Education MOE Malaysia Women Campus in Melaka (IPG KPM) was selected to be the temporary base for SEAMEO SEN (Special Education Needs), which will be focusing on research and in the implementation of training programme for special education teachers in particular, the categories of Learning Disabilities. Special education for children with learning difficulties requires variety of methods and techniques together with the use of teaching aids to make sure the learning meets their special needs. Enhancing the cooperation and collaboration between the parties involved in special education will help to strengthen the implementation of special education.

As part of on going improvements in its implementation, a benchmarking visit to several schools in the ASEAN region was proposed. In accordance, Special Education Department, IPG KPM has visited special education schools in Indonesia (2009), Brunei Darussalam (2010) and Singapore (2011). The benchmarking visit looked at the aspects of implementation of teaching and learning, facilities provided and vocational training for special needs students.

As a continuation to the previous visits, IPG KPM again organized a visit to Thailand to see how they administer and manage their special needs students. The visit was a good platform for lecturers to share their experiences, compare notes and initiate transfer of expertise. Bangkok was chosen due to their variety of facilities and programmes offered to special needs students, such as intervention programmes, diagnosis, vocational skills, therapy, career training and special needs pre-school.

Benchmarks visit to SEAMEO Secretariat and Special Education Schools in Bangkok, Thailand

Programme Objectives

Participants are expected to be able to:

1. expand knowledge and new skills in special education needs to meet the special needs of special needs students.
2. Share technology and product updates in special education need’s teaching for lecturers in the Special Education Department, IPG KPM
3. gain information on the administration of intervention programmes, pre-school special education, therapy and vocational training / career and diagnostic implementation, testing and evaluation
4. practice appropriate and effective teaching and learning methods
5. establish and strengthen collaboration and cooperation among lecturers of Department of Special Education, IPG KPM, MOE with the parties involved Special Education in Thailand and ASEAN countries
6. run special needs programmes for new teachers in IPG KPM, lecturers, teachers and parents in line with IPG KPM being the centre for SEAMEO SEN
7. connect and share activities with other IPGs towards the development of special education needs within lecturers

Officers

1. Dr. Yasmin bt Hussain (Director of SEAMEO SEN)
2. Mr. Mohd Idris bin Sayaji (Head of Sp. Ed. Department, Inst. Of Teacher Education MOE, Melaka Campus)
3. Mr. Azman bin Norain (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Of Teacher Education MOE, Melaka Campus)
4. Mr. Amru bin Othman (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Of Teacher Education MOE, Melaka Campus)
5. Mr. Hadi bin Khairuddin (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Of Teacher Education MOE, Melaka Campus)
6. Mr. Shamul Riza bin Khali (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Of Tea Arbacher Education MOE)
7. Dr. Shahrul Arshad bin Othman (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Teacher Education MOE)
8. Mdm Meskinah bt Tabi (Sp. Ed. Lecturer from Inst. Teacher Education MOE)

Venue

I. SEAMEO Secretariat, Bangkok, Thailand
II. Lopburi Panyarakul School, Lopburi
III. Special Education Centre Region 6, Lopburi Province
IV. Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities, Chonburi
Brief Summary on the visit to SEAMEO Secretariat

Date: June 12th, 2013
Time: 3:00pm

All briefings were presented through multimedia presentations and distributions of handouts.

i) The briefing began with the introduction of SEAMEO SECRETARIAT officers followed by the background and establishment of SEAMEO SECRETARIAT by Dr. Tinsir Srilodh, Deputy Director of SEAMEO SECRETARIAT.

ii) Briefing on the SEAMEO SECRETARIAT’s Golden Training Programmes by Ms. Lotus Moreno Postrado, Programme Officer 1.

iii) Briefing on financial procedures by Mr. Rauude Sukmongkol, Finance Manager

iv) Briefing on Management and Administration by Mrs. Natcha Kampiranond, Administration

v) Briefing on training programme procedures and implementation by Ms. Abigail Cuadles Lanceta, Programme Officer 3

Brief Summary on the visit to Lopburi Panyanukul School, Thailand

School Background

The Lopburi Panyanukul Special Needs School Programme was established since the year 1994. In the Lopburi district alone there are nineteen Special Needs Schools and seven Special Needs Centres. Lopburi Panyanukul Special Needs School is under the administration of Mr. Sujin Sawangsri.

Lopburi Panyanukul Special Needs School was previously known as Lopburi Special School which provides education for students with hearing difficulties, intellectual disabilities and physical disabilities. After the changing of name to Lopburi Panyanukul Special Needs School in 2003, programmes for autism and intellectual disabilities learners were introduced. The school covers the central region of Thailand which includes Lopburi, Singburi, Ayutthaya, Ang Thong and ChaiNat.

The school’s vision is to be a reputable institute offering teaching and vocational services for intellectual disabilities learners which as a result enable learners to participate within the community at his/her fullest potential.

Meanwhile, the school visions are:

i. to achieve and systematically prepare intellectual disabilities learners from preschool to secondary

ii. to promote skills according to individual potential and preference, which enable learners to be independent within his/her family and community

iii. to collaborate with local organization and community to increase the level of education and vocational for learners

iv. to promote the professional development of school’s personnel in Special Education Needs Curriculum
Lopburi Payanyanukul Special Needs School curriculums have been divided into preschool, foundation and secondary programmes.

1. Preschool Curriculum
   a. Gross motor skills
   b. Fine motor skills
   c. Living skills
   d. Pre-academic skills
   e. Social skills
   f. Cognitive skills

2. Foundation and Secondary Curriculum
   a. Gross motor skills
   b. Language and communication skills
   c. Independent and living skills
   d. Social skills
   e. Academic Skills
   f. Vocational Skills

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**Brief Summary on the visit to Special Education Centre Region 6, Lopburi Province**

The Special Education Centre 6, Lopburi Province was established since June 21st, 2000 for the purpose of training children with special needs. The centre is under the administration of Mr. Chaiyapoom Phanno.

Purpose of establishment:

i. for early detection of special needs children
   - to identify nine problems on special needs children, either at birth or during childhood

ii. for potential development
   - the centre provides potential development for special needs children to prepare them to the next level of education

Enrolment categories:

a. Visual and Hearing impairment
b. Intellectual disabilities
c. Physical disabilities
d. Children with autism

The centre is very crucial in assisting parents with special needs children. Parents can obtain information on the learning and development of their children. If detected early, parents can plan and manage their children’s learning path.
Brief Summary on the visit to Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities, Pattayachenburi

Redemptorist Vocational School for People with Disabilities is located in the district of Pattaya, Thailand. It was founded by Father Brennan. It all started in 1984, where Father Brennan collaborated with the association of people with disabilities to offer computer courses for disabled individuals. Later in 1987, the Redemptorist church officially launched their formal school programme for two years for 25 students. The centre expanded and by the year of 1995, a 5-storey building was constructed to house classes, cafeteria and hostels.

At present, there are 240 students with disabilities currently pursuing various programmes. The main focus of the centre is to train disabled individuals to be proficient in ICT which allow them to be independent and help others.

Programme offered:

i. Computer Science
ii. Business English
iii. Electronics Repair Work
iv. CAD Designing
v. Media
Benchmarking Visit to SEAMEO RECSAM

As part of the realization effort towards the establishment of the SEAMEO SEN centre, a benchmarking visit to SEAMEO Regional Centre for Education in Science and Mathematics (RECSAM), Pulau Pinang has been organized. SEAMEO RECSAM is a well-known SEAMEO Centre in Malaysia which was established in the year 1967. The trip was led by SEAMEO SEN Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin binti Hussain together with her deputy En. Azman bin Nordin and senior key personnel, Pn. Hjh Rozaliawati binti Ab. Kadir from Research & Evaluation Department, Pn. Mazmi binti Maarof and Pn. Norshita binti Md. Shah from Training & Consultation Department and Pn. Era Zaffura binti Md. Sin from Administration. The main focus was to gather knowledge and comparing information on centre’s staffing, functions and administrations.

The team was given a warm welcome by RECSAM’s Director, Dr. Hj. Mohd Johan bin Zakaria and his management team. The first day agenda was a briefing on current function of each department from their respective Heads of Department. ICT Department was led by En. Mohd Faizal bin Zainoldin, Publication and Multimedia by Ms. Wong Lai Cheng, Finance by Pn. Rashinah, Administration by Hj. Qamarul bin Abrar Ahmad, Library by Hj. Zamani Tajudin bin Yusoff Tajudin and their International House by Ms. Kogi Nadarajah.

On the second day, RECSAM’s Training Programme Deputy Director, Ms. Foo Lay Kuan, accompanied by her Programme Officer, Ms. Puganes Selvaraj shared in depth training procedures and past activities. The Deputy Director of Research and development, Dr. Devadesan was also present and briefed on his department. RECSAM’s Asst. Accountant, Pn. Rosnita binti Abdul Wahab also shared in details on the financial management of the centre. Pn. Monishah took a short visit to their library to understand more on how they operate.

The team gained a lot of valuable information during the trip to the 45 year old centre. It has definitely helped the team in the operation and management of our new SEAMEO SEN centre.

Our highest appreciation to SEAMEO RECSAM.
DISCUSSION FORUM ON EVALUATION, THAILAND
‘STRATEGIC PERSPECTIVES : ADVANCING EVALUATION PRACTICE IN SEAMEO’

The “Discussion Forum on Evaluation - Strategic Perspectives: Advancing Evaluation Practice in SEAMEO” was held on July 4 in Bangkok, Thailand right after the SEAMEO Centre Director Meeting. The forum attended by delegates from SEAMEO Member Countries, and for SEAMEO SEN our Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain and Pn. Hjh. Rozalawati Ab. Kadir were present.

The Forum discussed the high value and importance of evaluations which has been shown to contribute to motivation, improve effectiveness and efficiency, support strategic planning and budgeting alleviate risk as well as help in optimising the use of scarce resources.

The presentation was led by Dr. Zenda Ofir, a Natural Scientist and an International Evaluation Specialist.

The forum objectives are:

i. Stimulate reflection on the role of evaluation for good governance and management and benefits it can bring to SEAMEO and the SEAMEO Centres.

ii. Explore important practices in evaluation that are relevant to the goals and functions of SEAMEO and the SEAMEO Centres.

iii. Consider which practices can best benefit SEAMEO and the SEAMEO Centres and how they can be pursued in future.

SIXTH CHINA-ASEAN EDUCATION COOPERATION WEEK

The sixth China-ASEAN Education Cooperation Week, September 15th to 18th, 2013 was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, P.R. China, Ministry of Education, P.R. China and People’s Government of Guizhou Province.

SEAMEO SEN was invited to be part of the programme. Centre Director, Dr. Yasmin Hussain accompanied by Training Coordinator, Pn. Monishah binti Md. Shah attended the four-day programme.

There were several activities conducted in the programme which aimed to promote this year’s “Practical Cooperation, Harmonious Development and Mutual Prosperity” theme.
THE CENTRE: BEFORE AND AFTER

Before

After
PICTURE GALLERY

Official Visit by Minister of Education, Thailand – November 8th, 2009

Centre’s Operational Meeting – August 23rd, 2010

Opening Ceremony – October 25th, 2010
LET’S LEARN

Sign Language
(Alphabets A to Z and Numbers 0 to 9)

Alphabets

a b c d e f g
h i j k l m
n o p q r s

Numbers

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
Congratulations

To

Dr. Yasmin binti Hussain
For the appointment as
First SEAMEO SEN Director

From the management and staff of SEAMEO SEN