



## Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization

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### PRESS RELEASE

## Singapore hosts the first virtual 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference 2021

The Ministry of Education, Singapore in cooperation with the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) Secretariat will convene the first virtual 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEO Council Conference (51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEC) on 17 June 2021.

The virtual conference shall be attended by more than 200 participants comprising of the Ministers of Education, heads of delegation, and senior education officials from 11 SEAMEO Member Countries (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam); representatives from 8 SEAMEO Associate Member Countries; 5 Affiliate Members; and 26 SEAMEO Regional Centres/Network as well as SEAMEO partners such as the ASEAN Secretariat, UNESCO Bangkok, UNICEF Regional Office for Asia and Pacific, GIZ, Weidong Cloud Education, DVV International, Global Partnership for Education, Korea Educational Development Institute (KEDI).

H E Dr Radzi Jidin, Senior Minister of Education and the current SEAMEO Council President will officially open the Conference, followed by the welcome remarks by H E Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education of Singapore, and newly-elected SEAMEO Council President.

The 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEC will highlight the presentation of SEAMEO Affiliate Membership to the British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE), Canada. In addition, the application of the Kingdom of Morocco as a new Associate Member of SEAMEO will be proposed at the 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEC for approval.

The highlighted working papers in the Plenary session include SEAMEO Strategic Plan 2021-2030, and reports on the SEAMEO Regional Programmes such as SEAMEO Congress 2021, SEAMEO Inter-Centre Collaboration, Digital Kids Asia-Pacific (DKAP), and Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics.

The winners of the 2020/2021 SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award (in collaboration with the Australia Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment), and the 2020 SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award (in collaboration with Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan) will also be officially announced to the Ministers and High Officials at the 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEC. *(Refer to the list of the winners in Appendix I)*

Ms Alice Albright, Chief Executive Officer of Global Partnership for Education is invited to present and share her vision and wisdom on “Collaboration and Partnership in Post-Pandemic Era: Bridging the Distance through Technology” during the Plenary session.

Organised back to back with the 51<sup>st</sup> SEAMEC, the 5<sup>th</sup> Strategic Dialogue for Education Ministers (SDEM 5) following the theme of Singapore’s presidency, “New Education

Imperatives in a Post-COVID Era”, will be exclusively conducted for the Ministers to have an open, conversational-style discussion with one another on how SEAMEO countries can begin to further the refreshed priorities laid out in the SEAMEO Strategic Plan (SSP) 2021- 2030, which will guide SEAMEO's education agenda and the activities of the regional centres for the next decade. The Ministers will also share their vision and countries' interventions on how to prepare Future-Ready Learners and ensure Education as an Uplifting Force.

The “SEAMEO Council’s Commitment to Action” will be launched as a Singapore Statement of the SDEM 5 and will be adopted by the SEAMEO Council to commit to improving educational outcomes in the region.

**For more information, please contact:**

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### **2020/2021 SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award**

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) in collaboration with the Australian Government Department of Education, Skills and Employment has organised the SEAMEO-Australia Education Links Award since 2013, to promote innovation in the field of education cooperation between Southeast Asia and Australia.

For the 2020/2021 cycle, the theme was “Education Innovations that work: Enhancing Links between Southeast Asian countries and Australia”.

At the end of the entry submission in April 2021, the SEAMEO Secretariat received 54 entries from educators and researchers in 5 Southeast Asian countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Philippines and Thailand.

The winning proposals will receive a grants of AUD 10,000.

The winning proposals of 2020/2021 are:

- **“Learning together through SEAMEO- AUS EDULINK: Practices and Principles for Collaborative Pedagogy and Assessment using ePortfolios”**

By Dr Nantana Taptamat, Casual Academic and Research Assistant of the University of Queensland, Australia; and Dr Siti Muflichah, Senior Lecturer of Universitas Islam Negeri Antasari Banjarmasin, Indonesia

and

- **“Belajarstem.id Project (Enhancing Science Teachers’ Technology Literacy Through STEM Learning Using Arduino)”**

By Mrs Lia Laela Sarah, Vice Principal of SMA Labschool UPI, Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia

Additional information:

[https://www.seameo.org/Main\\_programme/256](https://www.seameo.org/Main_programme/256)

### **2020 SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award**

The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology, Japan (MEXT), in cooperation with the UNESCO Asia and Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, have shown their collective commitment to promote best practices in Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in schools across Southeast Asia, by annually organising the SEAMEO-Japan Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Award since 2012.

The objectives of the SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award are:

1. To raise awareness of ESD in schools and communities across Southeast Asia;
2. To promote ESD best practices in schools and communities across Southeast Asia;
3. To share and exchange knowledge and best practices on ESD in schools across Southeast Asia and Japan.

All public and private schools in 11 Southeast Asian countries are invited to submit information about their projects/ programmes that are related to the theme of each year’s competition.

For the 2020 Award, the theme was “Addressing Plastic problems for Transforming Communities.” The SEAMEO Secretariat received 181 entries from schools in 8 Southeast

Asian countries, namely, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Vietnam.

The winners of 2020 SEAMEO-Japan ESD Award are:

- 1st Prize Winner: SM St Patrick Tawau, Sabah, Malaysia  
Project: Five Greens Programme
- 2nd Prize Winner: SMK Kunak Jaya, Sabah, Malaysia  
Project: Small Acts, Big Impact
- 3rd Prize Winner: Salvacion National High School, Davao Del Norte, Philippines  
Project: GO G.R.E.E.N. (Greeneration, Rehabilitation and Education for an Eco-friendly Nation against Waste Pollution)
- Special Prize Winner for Small Schools of Less than 250 Students: Baay National High School, Abra, Philippines  
Project: CHANGE (Clean, Habitable, Adaptable and Nurturing Greener Environment)

Additional Information:

[https://www.seameo.org/Main\\_programme/213](https://www.seameo.org/Main_programme/213)

### About SEAMEO

SEAMEO is an international and intergovernmental organization established in 1965 to promote cooperation in education, science and culture. Its 11 Member Countries include Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam.

SEAMEO's mission is to enhance regional understanding, cooperation and unity of purpose among member countries for a better quality of life through the establishment of networks and partnerships, the provision of fora among policy makers and experts, and the promotion of sustainable human resource development. This is made possible through the 26 specialist institutions of SEAMEO.

Headquartered in Bangkok, Thailand, SEAMEO collaborates with global and international organizations like UNESCO, UNICEF, Asian Development Bank, ASEAN Secretariat and others in the execution of its mandate covering the promotion of cooperation in Education, Science and Culture. It is also supported by its Associate Members, namely Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Spain and United Kingdom. SEAMEO also works closely with its Affiliate Members namely the International Council for Open and Distance Education (ICDE), the University of Tsukuba, Japan, the British Council, China Education Association for International Exchange (CEAIE), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO-APCEIU), and British Columbia Council for International Education (BCCIE),