Workshop Concept Note

Second Workshop on
Pre-primary Teacher Management and Development in Southeast Asia
16-18 March 2015, Bangkok, Thailand

Background
Southeast Asian countries have made important quantitative and qualitative progress in early childhood care and education (ECCE), and most countries have developed national ECCE policies as well as standards or curricular frameworks. Enrolment in pre-primary programmes has increased steadily. Since the 45th SEAMEO Council Conference (Cebu, 2010), the importance of ECCE, particularly in promoting quality education for all, has been highlighted.

In this context, UNESCO Bangkok and SEAMEO Secretariat have been implementing a joint project “Pre-primary Teacher Development in Southeast Asia,” which is funded by the Government of Japan, with a view to developing regional guidelines to support SEAMEO Member Countries’ further efforts to strengthen their ECCE workforce. The 36th SEAMEO High Officials Meeting (Bangkok, February 2014) unanimously agreed to the implementation of this project and endorsed the participation of the SEAMEO Member Countries in this project. The progress of the project was reported to the 37th SEAMEO HOM held on 25-27 November 2014, which in turn endorsed the drafting of the Southeast Asian Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Management and Development and expressed continued support and cooperation in the implementation of the project.

The main project activities implemented to date include: the first workshop (Bangkok, 1-3 July 2014), in which the participating SEAMEO member countries prepared collectively the tentative outline of the Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Education and Professional Development, and the conduct of a questionnaire survey of SEAMEO member countries. Based on these, an analytical synthesis report of the questionnaire survey and a “zero draft” of the Guidelines are being prepared in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Network for Early Childhood (ARNEC).

The momentum for pre-primary teacher management and development in Southeast Asia is building up. During the recent Strategic Dialogue of Education Ministers, the Ministers of Education and Heads of Delegation of the SEAMEO Member States decided to make ECCE towards achieving universal pre-primary education by 2030, as one of the seven priority areas for cooperation. The Ministers also prioritized teachers through the comprehensive, strategic, and practice-based reform of the teacher management and development systems, with a view to making again a profession of first choice.

Workshop Objectives
The workshop aims to:

1. Review and revise the “zero draft” of the Southeast Asian Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Management and Development.
2. Draft country roadmaps for the adoption and implementation of the guidelines in strengthening pre-primary teacher management and development.

3. Draft regional and country-level advocacy plans to boost political support for the implementation of the country roadmaps.

**Expected Outputs**

1. Completed country questionnaires for the final analytical synthesis report.
2. Draft country roadmaps for the adoption and implementation of the Guidelines.
3. Regional and country-level advocacy plans.
4. A revised draft of the Southeast Asian Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Management and Development prepared.

**Inputs**

- Country-specific questionnaires revised on the basis of the analysis and synthesis of the survey responses collected by ARNEC.
- “Zero draft” of the Southeast Asian Guidelines for Pre-primary Teacher Management and Development.

**Participants**

Representatives of the 11 SEAMEO countries are invited (Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam). It is expected that at least two persons from government agencies—one responsible for ECCE or pre-primary education policies and the other for teacher policies—participate from each country.

Regional and global development partners, such as ARNEC, UNICEF and ILO, are invited as resource persons, in addition to the two co-organizers, UNESCO Bangkok and the SEAMEO Secretariat.

**Working Language**

English will be the working language of the workshop.

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