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UNESCO Media Coverage



Media Coverage 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference 13-15 March 2008

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Source: Portal Pendidikan

Malaysia tuan rumah Persidangan SEAMEC

Oleh MARZITA ABDULLAH

Malaysia yang akan menjadi tuan rumah bagi Persidangan SEAMEC ke-43 Mac ini akan menganjurkan Persidangan dan Pameran Teknologi Komunikasi Maklumat (ICT) yang melibatkan pakar-pakar pendidikan dari rantau ini.

Persidangan ICT yang bertema "ICT dalam Pengajaran dan Pembelajaran (P&P)" akan bermula dari 10 Mac sehingga 12 Mac itu melibatkan sebanyak 450 peserta dari dalam dan luar negara.

Sebanyak 35 kertas kerja dari 37 negara akan dibentangkan termasuk dari negara Amerika Syarikat (AS), New Zealand, Kanada, Sepanyol, Finland, wakil UNESCO dan negara-negara SEAMEO serta pengalaman syarikat-syarikat di Malaysia yang terlibat dalam perkongsian pintar ICT bersama-sama sekolah di negara ini.

Menurut Bahagian Teknologi Pendidikan (BTP) Kementerian Pelajaran, Dr. Salbiah Ismail, persidangan ICT itu bertujuan berkongsi kejayaan ICT dalam pengajaran dan P&P setiap negara anggota pertubuhan.

"Persidangan yang kita anjurkan dengan kerjasama Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi memberi peluang kepada kita melihat perspektif dunia dalam ICT," katanya.

Sehingga kini maklum balas daripada negara luar untuk menyertai persidangan tersebut amat menggalakkan malah ada negara yang menghantar lebih daripada dua perwakilan.

"Ini termasuk dari Singapura, Thailand dan Brunei dan tidak ketinggalan kita menjemput negara Timor Leste sebagai negara baru untuk bersama-sama berkongsi pengalaman," katanya.

Antara tajuk kertas kerja yang akan dibentangkan ialah pengalaman Malaysia melaksanakan sekolah bestari, ICT dan P&P berdasarkan pengalaman Kanada, Penggunaan ICT dalam Pendidikan Teknikal dan Vokasional di Laos.

Dalam pada itu, pameran yang bertemakan ICT Untuk P&P akan melibatkan Kementerian Pelajaran, Kementerian Pengajian Tinggi, Multimedia Development Corporation (MDC) dan syarikat-syarikat tempatan seperti IBM Malaysia, MyPressto Com Sdn. Bhd., Oracle Corporation, Intel Electronic, Setegap Kuasa Sdn. Bhd.

Persidangan tersebut akan dirasmikan oleh Menteri Pelajaran Datuk Hishammudin Tun Hussein manakala majlis penutup akan dirasmikan oleh Menteri Pengajian Tinggi Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

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Source: People Daily Online, 13-3-2008

Malaysian PM calls for regional education policies in ASEAN

Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi called for the formulation of dynamic regional education policies that could continuously spearhead holistic developments in ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) here on Thursday.

Education remained the foremost key that would ensure the region continue to stay competitive and relevant in facing growing challenges in the globalized world, he said.

Due to the socio-economic challenges in the local and global stages, ASEAN should redouble its effort to ensure that their education system was able to prepare its people adequately to meet the challenges, he said.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

"Looking ahead, there is no greater challenge for our region than the pursuit of socio-economic development. In this respect, education plays a bigger role than most others.

"Hence it is pivotal for Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) member countries to close ranks and formulate appropriate regional education policies and strategies that will strengthen the socio-economic development of the region," Malaysian national news agency Bernama quoted Badawi as saying.

He made the remarks in a keynote address read out by Malaysian Education Ministry Secretary-General Zulkarnain Awang at the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference.

Education also played an imperative role in bridging divides in member countries at both the national and regional levels, and its system must also be continuously strengthened and tested for its relevance to ensure sustainable growth, Badawi said.

"In the context of developing a more equitable world, it is useful to remind ourselves that many gaps and divides remain -- the socio-economic gap, the education gap, the rural-urban divide, the digital divide and so on," he said.

In Malaysia, he said, education was one of the most heavily invested sectors with 23 percent of the annual budget being allocated for various projects and initiatives such as enhancing teaching facilities in the rural areas, providing allowances for disabled students and introducing a textbook scheme.

Meanwhile, Badawi also urged SEAMEO to constantly evaluate its performance and better its achievements through sharing experiences and expertise.

"We need to reflect, re-examine, and refine our goals, especially in view of current global developments. The varied approaches that we have individually taken have offered us an opportunity to learn from each other's experiences and to adopt successful formulas," he said.

Source: Xinhua

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Source: ThaIndian News, 13-3-2008

Malaysian PM calls for regional education policies

March 13th, 2008 - 7:34 pm ICT by admin

Xinhua

Kuala Lumpur, March 13 (Xinhua) Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi Thursday called for the formulation of dynamic regional education policies that could continuously spearhead holistic developments in Asean region. The Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) includes Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

“Education remained the foremost key that would ensure the region stay competitive and relevant in facing the growing challenges in the globalised world,” he said here.

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MoU Seameo, Unesco diperbaharui di KL

Oleh Syuhada Choo Abdullah

Memorandum berusia 33 tahun dikemas kini selaras perubahan

PERTUBUHAN Menteri-Menteri Pelajaran Asia Tenggara (Seameo) serta Pertubuhan Pendidikan, Saintifik dan Kebudayaan Pertubuhan Bangsa-Bangsa Bersatu (Unesco) akan memperbaharui memorandum persefahaman (MoU) berusia hampir 33 tahun yang ditandatangani pada Jun 1975, di Kuala Lumpur Khamis ini.

Pemeteraian MoU itu yang dikemas kini selaras perubahan dan keperluan semasa, akan diadakan pada



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Persidangan Majlis Seameo Ke-43 dijadualkan berlangsung selama tiga hari bermula esok.

Setiausaha Bahagian Hubungan Antarabangsa, Kementerian Pelajaran, Mohd Noor Rashid Mat Taharim, berkata MoU terbabit akan ditandatangani Pengarah Sekretariat Seameo, Datuk Dr Ahamad Sipon, dan Ketua Pengarah Unesco, Koichiro Matsuura.

"MoU berkenaan memfokus kerjasama dalam bidang pendidikan, sains dan kebudayaan. Ini termasuk kegiatan berkaitan penggunaan teknologi maklumat dan komunikasi (ICT) dalam pendidikan.

"Selain itu, pendidikan sains, pendidikan untuk pembangunan lestari, bahasa dan pendidikan, latihan dan pendidikan teknikal dan vokasional, serta analisis dan promosi identiti kebudayaan," katanya kepada Berita Harian di Putrajaya, semalam.

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Source: BERNAMA, March 14, 2008 23:40 PM

SEAMEC A Success, Says Outgoing President

KUALA LUMPUR, March 14 (Bernama) - The 43rd Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Conference (SEAMEC) was a very fruitful meeting with member countries strengthening their commitment to attain the Education For All (EFA) goals by 2015, said its outgoing president Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo.

He said the three-day meeting had also called for more proactive action to bridge disparity gaps between member countries and within the countries as well.

"The meeting resulted in a lot of important experience sharing and recommendations made by the member countries to bring quality education for the people.

"We have also successfully shared and exchanged the best practices in how to overcoming the challenges in reaching out to children in disadvantaged groups such as the poor, the disabled and children in rural areas," he told a news conference after the meeting ended here today.

He was also confident that the EFA goals could be reached by most of SEAMEO members.

The EFA initiated in 2000 among others aimed to expand and improve comprehensive early childhood care and education for the people and to ensure that by 2015 all children, particularly girls, children in difficult circumstances and those belonging to ethnic minorities have access to and complete free and compulsory primary education.

It also set to achieve 50 per cent improvement in levels of adult literacy by 2015, especially for women and equitable access to basic and continuing education for all adults and to achieve gender equality in education.

At the conference, Malaysia's Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Hussein was elected as the 44th SEAMEO president and SEAMEC chairman while his Thai counterpart Somchai Wongsawat was appointed vice president and vice chairman respectively.

The 44th SEAMEO conference will be held in Chiang Mai, Thailand in March next year.

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Source: SINA, 13-3-2008

UNESCO, SEAMEO ink MoU to reduce illiterate children

2008-03-13 03:33:58 Xinhua English

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Xinhua) -- The Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) and the United Nations Scientific and Cultural organization (UNESCO) on Thursday inked a memorandum of understanding (MoU) here to reduce three million illiterate children in Southeast Asia.

"This huge figure is something we've to look at seriously. We will work together to address children illiteracy in the region," Malaysian national news agency Bernama quoted SEAMEO president Bambang Sudibyo as saying.

The MoU, signed to renew the old one inked in Bangkok in 1975, also aims to further strengthen cooperation in the education sector among member states.

The MoU was signed by UNESCO director-general Koichiro Matsuura and SEAMEO Secretariat director Ahamad Sipon at the 43rd SEAMEO Council Conference and the Third ASEAN Education Ministers' Meeting.

More than 500 participants from member states are attending the three-day conference.

Meanwhile, the conference has appointed Malaysia's Education Minister as the new president of the council and Thailand's Education Minister as vice-president for a one-year term.

SEAMEO was established on Nov. 30, 1965 as a chartered international organization with 11 member states to promote cooperation in education, science and culture in the Southeast Asian region.

The conference was last held in Bali, Indonesia last year.

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Source: Mathaba.net, 14-3-2008

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Source: Bernama.com 13-3-2008

Unesco, Seameo Ink MoU To Check Children Illiteracy

KUALA LUMPUR, March 13 (Bernama) -- A memorandum of understanding (MoU) was inked between the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organisation (Seameo) and the United Nations Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco) to reduce three million illiterate children in Southeast Asia.

"This huge figure is something we've to look at seriously. We will work together to address children illiteracy in the region," said Seameo president Dr Bambang Sudibyo.

The MoU also aims to further strengthen co-operation in the education sector among member states.

He also admitted that there was " a bit of overlapping of roles" between Seameo and Unesco.

Unesco covers education, science and culture, including ICT (information and communications technology), while Seameo education and culture.

So, there's a bit of overlapping here," he said after the signing by Unesco director-general Koichiro Matsuura and Seameo Secretariat director Datuk Dr Ahamad Sipon at the 43rd Seameo Council Conference and the Third Asean Education Ministers' Meeting here.

Dr Bambang said a fresh MoU was signed to renew the previous MoU inked in Bangkok in 1975.

More than 500 participants from member states are attending the three-day conference.

Meanwhile, the conference has appointed Malaysia's Education Minister as the new president of the council and Thailand's Education Minister as vice-president for a one-year term.

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Source: The Star online, 14-3-2008

We need SEA change

KUALA LUMPUR: South-East Asian (SEA) countries must work together to formulate regional educational policies and strategies that will strengthen the socio-economic development of the region, said Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi.

“Education is the key to our development and to the enhancement of our competitiveness at a global level,” Abdullah said in his keynote address at the 43rd Seameo council conference yesterday delivered by Education Ministry secretary-general Tan Sri Dr Zulkarnain Awang.

“The varied approaches that each country individually takes offer an opportunity for all to learn from each other’s experiences and to adopt successful formulas.”

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that countries in the region which are members of Seameo (South-East Asian Ministers of Education Organisation) would be driven by a commitment to reduce inequalities in the education and socio-economic spheres.



On the mark: Datuk Dr Ahamed (left), Seameo Council president and Indonesian Education Minister Prof Dr Bambang Sudibyo, Matsuura and Dr Zulkarnain hitting the gong to mark the start of the 43rd Seameo Council Conference.

Malaysia was elected as president of the Seameo Council and chairperson of the conference yesterday, taking over from Indonesia. Seameo was established in 1965.

Abdullah noted that Malaysia invests heavily in education, with 23% of the annual national budget allocated to the sector.

Unesco (United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation) director-general Koichiro Matsuura said there had been significant advances in expanding access to primary education in South-east Asia. “The enrolment rate in most countries is high – over 90%. The majority of South-East Asian countries have also achieved, or are close to achieving, gender parity in primary education.

“However, over three million children in South-East Asia are still not in school. They are excluded by many – often overlapping – factors, including poverty, remoteness, ill health, ethnicity and language, gender, and disability,” he said.



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Matsuura later signed an updated and revised MoU with Seameo director Datuk Dr Ahamad Sipon to provide a more structured framework for expanding cooperation in education, science, and culture across the region.

Also present were Education Minister Datuk Seri Hishammuddin Tun Hussein and Higher Education Minister Datuk Mustapa Mohamed.

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