

Proposed SEAMEO CELL's Project  
"Towards an ASEAN  
Lifelong Learning Agenda"

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GBM2/WP10



# Proposed SEAMEO CELLL's Project

## “Towards an ASEAN<sup>1</sup> Lifelong Learning Agenda”

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### **PURPOSE**

1. The purpose of this working paper is to inform and seek the support and consideration of SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board Members on the proposed activities that have been and will be undertaken in the Project “Towards an ASEAN Lifelong Learning Agenda”, implemented by SEAMEO CELLL with funding from UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. Southeast Asian countries have made major progress towards Education for All since 2000. While student participation, retention and survival rates have generally increased, challenges remain in ensuring ‘inclusive and equitable quality education and promot[ing] lifelong learning opportunities for all’, one of seventeen goals in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To promote Lifelong Learning for All and address the twin challenges of equity and quality, there is a need for SEAMEO Member Countries to articulate a vision of lifelong learning and learn from each other’s policies and practices.
3. To assist the agenda for lifelong learning to become more inclusive and gender responsive, SEAMEO CELLL and UNESCO are initiating a regional project on collaborative research and advocacy for lifelong learning in 2016. The purpose of this project is in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025, SEAMEO Educational Priorities 2015-2035, UNESCO 2016-2017 Programme and SEAMEO CELLL First Five-Year Development Plan FY2015/2016 – FY2019/2020 endorsed by its Governing Board in September 2015.

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<sup>1</sup> Throughout this Project the term ASEAN also includes Timor-Leste

## SCOPE

### **Purpose and expected outputs**

4. The purpose of the project is to support SEAMEO Member Countries' development and implementation of holistic and comprehensive lifelong learning approaches that link different sectors and forms of learning.
5. In the first stage of the project, SEAMEO Member Countries are to discuss and document successful implementation of lifelong learning and share the findings at national and regional level for dissemination and exploitation. The expected output will be a compendium of the countries' best practices in different aspects of lifelong learning, as well as government policies and strategies enabling its development.
6. The results of the national critical reflection are expected to inform discussions at a regional Expert Meeting planned to take place in Ho Chi Minh City, back to back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO CELL. An online portal is also developed for knowledge sharing and learning, based on accumulated countries' best practices.
7. A set of recommendations on policies, legislation and financing for lifelong learning will subsequently be developed and presented in the next stages, at a SEAMEO High Officials Meeting and tentatively at a SEAMEO Council Meeting, for adoption.
8. Expected impact will be positive changes in the region towards inclusive and gender-responsive lifelong learning policies and programmes in line with the ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community Blueprint 2025 and SEAMEO Educational Priorities 2015-2035.

## 9. Parties involved:

<p><b>UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning</b> (based in Hamburg, Germany)</p> <p><b>Associated implementing UNESCO units:</b> UNESCO Bangkok, Jakarta, Hanoi, Phnom Penh and UNESCO Southeast Asia Centre of Lifelong Learning for Sustainable Development (UNESCO SEA-CLLSD)</p>	<p><b>SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning</b> (SEAMEO CELL)</p> <p><b>National implementing partners</b> nominated via SEAMEO CELL's Governing Board Members representing 11 national governments</p> <p><b>Interested partners in the region:</b> DVV-International Regional Office (Lao PDR); NILE (Republic of Korea)</p>
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## 10. Main Tasks

	<b>MAIN TASKS AND CORRESPONDING OUTPUTS</b>	<b>TIME</b>
1	<p><b>A planning meeting</b> with the participation of key stakeholders and experts to decide on the research method and project implementation plan.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to build strategic alliances and mobilise expertise and experience from stakeholders in and out of ASEAN countries.</p>	8 Mar 2016

	<p><b>Participants:</b></p> <p>DVV International Southeast Asia Regional Office (based in Lao PDR)  Indonesia Ministry of Education and Culture, as Chair of SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board  National Institute for Lifelong Education (Republic of Korea)  SEAMEO CELLL  SEAMEO Secretariat  UNESCO Hanoi Office  UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (based in Hamburg)  UNESCO Regional Bureau for Education (based in Bangkok)  Vietnam Ministry of Education and Training</p> <p><b>Output:</b> agreement on the components and timeline of the project.</p>	
2	<p><b>Collection of best practices</b> on a variety of aspects of lifelong learning and their underlying government policies from SEAMEO member countries (at least seven countries)</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to create an inventory of best practices presented in different media forms for sharing among ASEAN member states</p> <p><b>Parties in charge:</b></p> <p>SEAMEO CELLL is to facilitate and coordinate national report compilation and resource mobilisation in participating countries.</p> <p>National reports are to be written by national institutions via nomination of</p>	April-September 2016

	<p>SEAMEO CELL's governing board members</p> <p>A consultant is contracted to review and synthesise national reports.</p> <p><b>Output:</b> compilation of good practices, enabling policies and strategies by governments considering lifelong learning as a guiding principle for education and sustainable development</p>	
3	<p><b>Consultation</b> on enabling policies, legislation and financing for lifelong learning based on best practices. This involves organising a Southeast Asian expert meeting back to back with the 2<sup>nd</sup> SEAMEO CELL Governing Board Meeting</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to review national reports and exchange experience in promoting lifelong learning</p> <p><b>Participants:</b> SEAMEO CELL Governing Board Members and one member from each participating country.</p> <p><b>Output:</b> pooling of expertise to support lifelong learning policy development, implementation and evaluation; drafting of the working document for SEAMEO High Officials Meeting and Ministerial-level Conference; developing concept of the online portal and other dissemination strategies.</p>	October 2016
4	<p>Creation of an <b>online portal</b> for sharing national policies and best practices</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to provide a hub where individuals and organisations interested in lifelong learning development can obtain</p>	September 2016 – January 2017

	<p>needed information, exchange opinions and discuss issues in this field</p> <p><b>Output:</b> An online portal that serves as a hub for the region's lifelong learning policy information exchanges and lifelong learning best practices dissemination</p>	
5	<p><b>Publication</b> of best practices and policies</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to deliver documented best practices in lifelong learning and relevant policies in print</p> <p><b>Output:</b> a compendium of papers presented at the expert meeting and other seminars during the Lifelong Learning Week in Vietnam and contents of various formats made available on the online portal</p>	December 2016 onward
6	<p><b>Recommendations</b> at an ASEAN education leaders summit, preferably at the 49th SEAMEO Council Conference in Indonesia.</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to seek the Council's approval for the necessary recommendations for lifelong learning</p> <p><b>Output:</b> The recommendations on reorienting national plans for enhancing lifelong learning for all to be adopted by SEAMEO Education Ministers</p>	March 2017
7	<p><b>Dissemination</b> of best practices and policies in SEAMEO countries in English and national languages</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to enhance understanding of best practices and policies made in countries other than one's own and encourage modification and application of those</p>	2017

	<b>Output:</b> enabling policies, legislation and financing for lifelong learning translated and discussed in SEAMEO countries	
8	<p><b>Project Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> to ensure the project is carried out properly as described</p> <p><b>Output:</b> a report of the conduct of the project</p>	Throughout the project

### Implementation Plan

11. A planning meeting will be held at SEAMEO CELLL to mobilise expertise and experience from stakeholders. The meeting will decide on the research method and project implementation plan as well as collaboration work among stakeholders. Based on the report of the meeting, UNESCO and SEAMEO CELLL will finalise the project components and allocate funding for each of them.
12. A guideline for documentation of national good practices through lifelong learning will be drafted by UNESCO which specifies expected participating countries and in-country focal point institutions, procedures of best practices documentation, review and submission, sample outline of national reports and financial arrangement. The guideline will be circulated among key stakeholders for review and revision.
13. A letter signed by the Chairperson of SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board will be sent to SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board members together with the guideline to inform them of the project and request them to facilitate the nomination of country focal institutions. Countries that participate in the project are expected to submit a country plan to SEAMEO CELLL.

14. Upon receiving the country plans, SEAMEO CELLL in consultation with UNESCO will prepare agreements to be signed with country institutions. The agreements will cover scope of work, deliverables and timeline as well as the right to use the national reports for non-commercial purposes and financial allocation, if necessary.
15. SEAMEO CELLL will prepare a working paper at the SEAMEO Centre Directors Meeting 2016 (July 2016) to inform SEAMEO about the project activities and request support from SEAMEO regional centres.
16. Country reports will be written in national languages for in-country review through consultations with a wide range of stakeholders before being translated into English and submitted to SEAMEO CELLL at three milestones: an executive summary in August 2016, a full draft report in September 2016 and the final paper in November 2016. Under the Project budget, (a) consultant(s) will be contracted to review and synthesise these reports. The consultant(s) will be required to present the synthesis report at the regional expert meeting described in (17).
17. A regional expert meeting will be organised in October 2016 to review the synthesis paper based on the executive summaries and a plan for a regional online platform for knowledge sharing and learning. Another output of the meeting is a set of recommendations on reviewing lifelong learning policies towards an inclusive and gender-responsive approach and strengthening regional collaborative activities to promote lifelong learning.
18. SEAMEO CELLL is responsible for organising the meeting and preparing the synthesis paper with the assistance of the contracted consultant(s) as well as the plan for the regional online platform. Participants of the meeting are SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board Members, one member from each participating country, and invited regional partners.
19. The online platform may be jointly developed by SEAMEO CELLL and another SEAMEO regional centre under MOU signed between the two centres.

20. SEAMEO CELLL through SEAMEO Secretariat will submit a working paper at the SEAMEO HOM-39 (High Officials Meeting) in November 2016 requesting the collaboration of member countries to translate selected content from the online platform into national languages and organise face-to-face and/or virtual seminars to reach out to district education officers, teachers and facilitators and issue briefings for parliamentarians and media.
21. Selected content from country reports and expert meeting papers and presentations will be compiled into a publication (and also be used for the online platform) in English and shared with countries in the region.
22. Project implementation together with recommendations from the expert meeting will be reported at a ministerial-level meeting, preferably at SEAMEC 49 (SEAMEO Council Conference) in March 2017 in Indonesia.
23. Throughout the project, monitoring will be implemented by SEAMEO CELLL with technical assistance from the National Institute for Lifelong Learning (NILE), Republic of Korea as in-kind contribution to the project.

### **Financial arrangement**

24. The UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) provides technical and financial support to the SEAMEO Regional Centre for Lifelong Learning (SEAMEO CELLL) in the conduct of this project in compliance with UNESCO General Terms and Conditions for Financing Activities.
25. SEAMEO CELLL serves as Implementing Agency of the project. As such SEAMEO CELLL ensures that all the Main Tasks are successfully carried out and consistent with the workplan approved by UIL.
26. For the Main Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 8, UIL agrees to fund a total sum of one hundred thousand euros (€100,000) to SEAMEO CELLL, based on a detailed budget allocation to each task, proposed by SEAMEO CELLL and approved by UIL. SEAMEO CELLL is expected to mobilise counterpart fund and service to ensure successful implementation.
27. For the Main Tasks 7 (item 10.7), cost will be shouldered by participating countries.

28. SEAMEO CELLL is responsible for signing service contracts with agencies/consultants for the implementation of (a) collecting and documenting best practices on a variety of aspects of lifelong learning and their underlying government policies; and (b) documenting synthesis report as well as other project reports as required.
29. As Implementing Agency, SEAMEO CELLL ensures budget utilisation and liquidation as per planned and approved budget, and submits valid copies of expenditure receipts incurred under the conduct of the project.

## **JUSTIFICATION AND IMPLICATIONS**

30. The development of an inclusive and gender-responsive ASEAN lifelong learning agenda directly addresses Priority 2 in the 7 Priorities of SEAMEO Education 2015-2035. Best practices in various lifelong learning aspects will promote better understanding and collaboration among SEAMEO member states in the context of ASEAN integration which brings about both opportunities and challenges. For the successful implementation of the planned activities and the Project as a whole, active support of all SEAMEO centres and close collaboration of the Centres directly involved are necessary, especially in financial arrangement of the following tasks/components:
31. **Compiling national reports:** Countries are encouraged to fund and prepare the national paper as their contribution to this regional project. For each participating country, SEAMEO CELLL will cover the travel cost of one expert to participate in the Expert Meeting in Ho Chi Minh City. SEAMEO CELLL will also cover an extra day's expenses for all SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board Members (who attend the Governing Board Meeting prior to this meeting).
32. SEAMEO CELLL, in consultation with UNESCO, will **provide financial support to participating countries upon demand**. The amount of financial support for each country will range from 2,000USD to 5,000USD. Selection will be based on having diverse categories

and contexts of lifelong learning practices from countries and a valid plan. Preference will be given to least developed countries.

33. **Developing an online portal** for sharing knowledge and learning: SEAMEO CELLL will seek technical assistance from another SEAMEO regional centre in developing an interactive platform where individuals and organisations interested in lifelong learning development can obtain needed information, exchange opinions and discuss issues in the field.
34. **Dissemination of best practices and policies** in SEAMEO countries in English and national languages: Countries are expected to shoulder the cost of translating the best practices and underlying policies into their national languages and organising face-to-face and/or virtual seminars to reach out to district educational officers, teachers and facilitators and issue briefings for parliamentarians and media.

#### **REQUESTED DECISION**

35. The 2<sup>nd</sup> SEAMEO CELLL Governing Board Meeting is requested to take note of the Project "Towards an ASEAN Lifelong Learning Agenda" as well as to support the implementation of its planned activities/programmes.