

SEAMEO SEN
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

ANNUAL **REPORT** **2016** **2017**

SEAMEO SEN
REGIONAL CENTRE FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION

SEAMEO SEN ANNUAL REPORT 2016/2017

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Annual Report 2016/2017



Message from SEAMEO SEN Director

Greetings from SEAMEO SEN

During the Fiscal 2016/2017, SEAMEO SEN has conducted six training programs and a number of programs and initiatives for the Special Education teachers of SEAMEO member countries. The trainings are directed towards enhancing professional development of Special Education teachers with emphasis on Inclusive Education, research and also parent support training for Autism. These activities are designed to be in line with the SEAMEO Priority Areas of the New Education Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal 4 Education Agenda. This FY year marks the third year of SEAMEO SEN's operation in this region. In its aspiration to be a leading center for Special Education, SEAMEO SEN is working at its best to fulfill its role. The importance of networking partnership with universities, organizations and Ministries of Education is very much needed. Resource sharing especially for experts and trainers of Special Education are very pertinent to ensure the training and courses conducted are of standard fulfil the needs of the region in Special Education.

The seminars, conferences and in-country trainings conducted are of collaborative in nature so as to increase the center's visibility and strengthened partnership with organizations and universities that shared similar passion and drive in Special Education. Dissemination and sharing of knowledge by practitioners and experts in Special Education through seminars provided participants with grounded evidence and informed best practices that can be applied in local and situational contexts.

We will continue to design and implement more programs and activities especially on awareness activities in Special Education. SEAMEO SEN will continue to work with existing partners and new partners to carry out trainings and research that are in tandem with the needs of Special Education in this region in the next fiscal years to come. Together, we strive for excellence!

Datin Dr. Hajah Yasmin Hussain
Director of SEAMEO SEN



Organization Profile and Mission



SEAMEO SEN, the Regional Center for Special Education is part of the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization (SEAMEO) an international organization dedicated to promoting co-operation in education, sciences and culture in Southeast Asia. SEAMEO SEN as one of SEAMEO regional centers based in Melaka Malaysia promotes capacity building of Special Education teachers through training, research, international seminars and conferences and to enhance professional competences of educators in Special Education. The center's mission to promote and enhance the quality of Special Education Needs practices among SEAMEO member countries are achieved by means of organizing programs and activities based on the Key Result Areas:

KRA 1

Regional Leadership and International Visibility

The trainings and programs designed and conducted are platforms for participants to develop professional attitudes, increase of knowledge and skills and develop depth understanding of areas of expertise in Special Education.

Participants are encouraged and to expand their knowledge through exchange of best practices and experience through networking and activities through school visits, best practices in Special Education and discussions, participating in Special Education Conference to generate ideas and information in Special Education. SEAMEO SEN works collaboratively with regional and international Ministries of Education, Universities, Non-Governmental Organization and Disabled People's Organization to enhance the center's visibility through training, research and awareness programs. These are done through MoU's signings, educational visits to promote SEAMEO SEN's role through collaboration initiative with regional and international institutions and organizations.

educational visits to promote SEAMEO SEN's role through collaboration initiative with regional and international institutions and organizations.



Organization Profile and Mission



KRA 2

Program Excellence and Dynamism

The programs and activities organized by SEAMEO SEN are based on the current trends and issues in Special Education that are of immediate needs and attention in the region. The contentions of the activities are dynamic and engaging and aimed to increase awareness on people with disabilities.

KRA 3

Values and responsibility

SEAMEO SEN also serves as mediators that bridges parents and families with SEN children with communities. As part of its responsibility creating awareness through community programs are very important to reduce stigmatization and negative perceptions on people with disabilities. Engaging government and private sectors to participate in charity based programs for people with disability encourages social corporate responsibilities initiatives in support of a developing a culture of respect for diversity of abilities in the society.

KRA 4

Professional Capacity Building for Special Education Teachers in SEAMEO member countries

SEAMEO SEN's most important role are builders and initiators for professional development for Special Education teachers in the region. The trainings are designed on imparting best practices in Special Education that are flexible and are adaptable by participants to suit their teaching and learning process that should accommodate their students with hearing impaired, vision impaired and those with learning difficulties. Participants are responsible to disseminate and share the knowledge gained from courses and programs attended in SEAMEO SEN with other Special Education Teachers in their countries. These are implemented by means of national and regional workshops, seminars and professional learning discussions at the school, district, state and national levels with support by their respective Ministries of Education.



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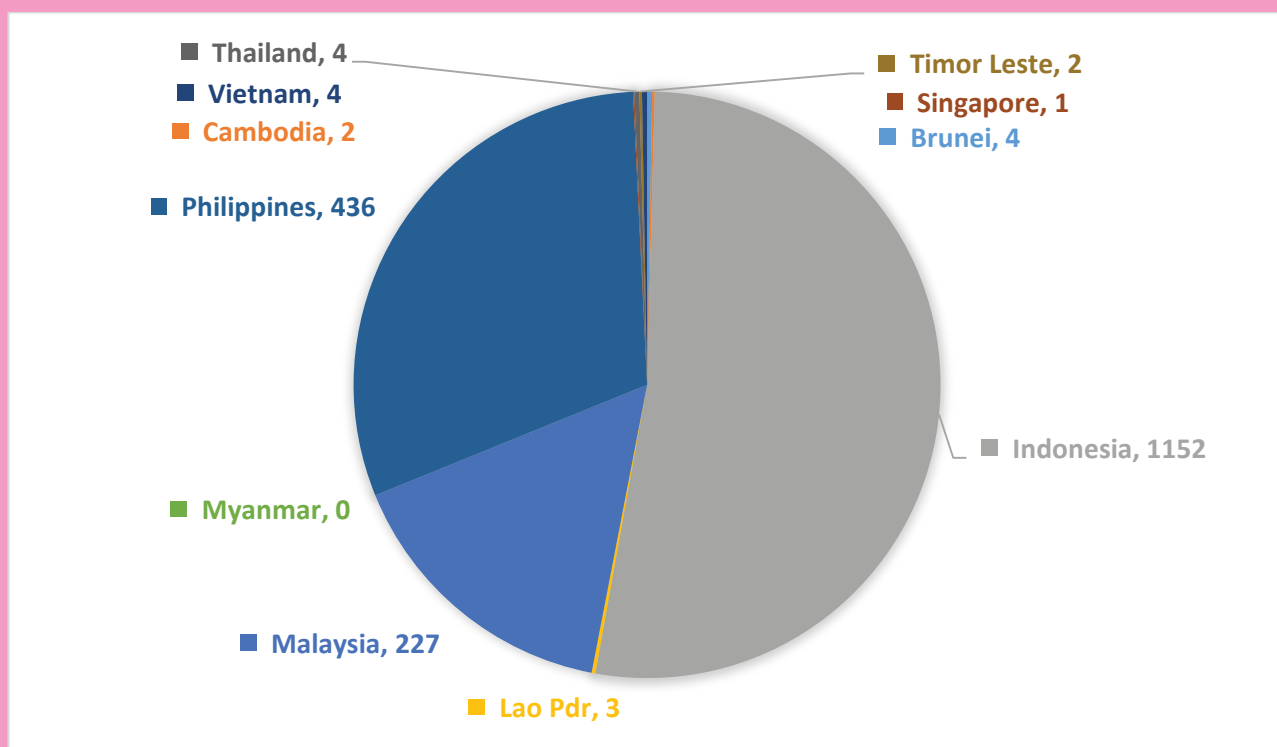
In its Fiscal Year of 2016/2017, SEAMEO SEN expanded its work and activities under training courses, research activities, international collaboration and awareness programs. The center's accomplishment for the year include the enhancement of the Center's relevance as a regional center on Southeast Asian Special Education

namely:

1. Increased visibility of the organization
2. Increased public awareness on people with disability and issues
3. Capacity building of Special Education teachers in SEAMEO countries
4. Extension of partners and network

Information in graphic

Number of Special Education teachers trained by countries



Number of Special Education Teachers of SEAMEO Member Countries trained in FY June 2016 to July 2017 by Courses

No	Country	Number of teachers trained			Total
		Regular Course	Customized Course	In Country Course	
1	Brunei	4	-	-	4
2	Cambodia	2	-	-	2
3	Indonesia	2	-	1150	1152
4	Lao PDR	3	-	-	3
5	Malaysia	29	198	-	227
6	Myanmar	-	-	-	-
7	Philippines	-	-	436	436
8	Singapore	1	-	-	1
9	Thailand	4	-	-	4
10	Timor Leste	2	-	-	2
11	Vietnam	4	-	-	4
				Total	1,835

Number of Courses conducted in FY July 2016 to June 2017

No	Type of courses	Total Courses conducted	
1	Regular Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Best Practices in Teaching and Learning: Research in Special Education Needs ii. Parent Support Training Net: Pilot Project-Planning Phase- Collaboration Of SEAMEO SEN And Autism Speaks, New York 	2	
2	Customized Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Non – Visual Desktop Access (NVDA Workshop) Series 1 and 2 ii. Unified English Braille (UEB) for Malaysian Teachers (Sabah) iii. The way forward for the Gifted and Talented Children in Malaysia for Malaysian Teachers. iv. Unified English Braille (UEB) for Malaysian Teachers (Sarawak) v. Workshop on Holistic Inclusive education Program Training Module (HIEP) – Series 1 and 2 vi. “<i>Sign To Speak 1.0</i>” Workshop vii. Workshop on Bahasa Malaysia Unified Braille for Malaysian Teachers 	9	
3	In Country Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. International Seminar on Special Education (SEAMEO SEN-UPI-MOEC) ii. Education for Special Needs in Educational Institutions (Jakarta, Indonesia) iii. Inclusive Education (Batam, Indonesia) iv. The Changing of Education Landscape in Special Education (Philippines) v. 7th International Seminar on Special Education (ICSAR) 	5	
		Total	16

A: INCREASED VISIBILITY OF SEAMEO SEN (KRA 1 and KRA 2)

As a regional center for Special Education, SEAMEO SEN needs to be visible in line with its role to promote education for children with Special Needs. In order to gain more insights in current educational trend and information in the field of Special Education, SEAMEO SEN attended conferences, meetings, seminars and events that were conducted at the international, regional and national levels to share and promote SEAMEO SEN and to create partnership and collaboration initiatives.

SEAMEO SEN together with BRAC Bangladesh conducted a four day training course from 17th to 21st February 2017 for BRAC teachers aimed at transferring information to BRAC Education Program teachers on identification of gifted and talented children in BRAC schools in Dhaka and Sreemongol Bangladesh. The teachers were given exposure and skills to ensure the learning needs of gifted children are met in terms of their cognitive, social and academic development. The training also imparted the teaching and learning methods of enhancing the creative development of the gifted children. Two experts Dr. Rosadah Abd Majid and Dr. Aliza Alias from the National University of Malaysia gave the training coordinated by Ms. Monishah Md Shah of SEAMEO SEN. The training is a part of SEAMEO SEN's initiative to enhance visibility and its role beyond the Southeast Asia region.



SEAMEO SEN also participated in conferences and seminars to seek networking opportunities and synergy with relevant ministries and organization. In FY 2016/2017 SEAMEO SEN attended conferences and seminars organized by Ministries of Education Malaysia, SEAMEO Secretariat and by various agencies and bodies. The first conference attended was the Asia-Pacific Regional Policy Forum on Early Childhood Care and Education 2016 that was held from 19th – 21st July 2016 at Hotel Marriott Putrajaya. The main objective of the forum was to provide a platform for high-level policy-makers of Asia and Pacific countries to share experiences and lessons learnt in developing and implementing ECCE policies and to discuss innovative strategies to improve the equity and quality of ECCE within the region. Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain, the Director of SEAMEO SEN moderated a mini forum entitled “Innovations in Policy, Planning, Service Delivery, Monitoring and Evaluation to Reach the Most Marginalised Children



The panels for the session were Ms. Azlina Bahari, Ministry of Rural and Regional Development, Malaysia, Dr. Ivelina Borisova, Early Learning Specialist, Education Section UNICEF Headquarters and Dr. Hj. Noraini Zainal Abidin, Special Education Division, MOE Malaysia. The main content of the forum is focusing on Early Childhood Care and Education Governance and Policies from the perspectives of policy makers and ECCE providers.



The second conference attended was jointly organized by SEAMEO Secretariat as initiative to involve China institutions in networking program. SEAMEO SEN together with other SEAMEO centers attended the China Southeast Asia TEVT Mobility and Networking Program from 1st to 3rd August 2016 in Guiyang, Guizhou PR China. Dr. Yasmin the Director of SEAMEO SEN moderated a panel discussion "21st Century Skills for Education Leaders" coordinated by Ms. Mazmi Maarof of SEAMEO SEN and SEAMEO Secretariat. The panelists for the session were; Dr. Abi Sujak, Director of Seameo SEAMOLEC of Indonesia, Mr. Shi Wensheng, Deputy Director of Vocational and Adult Education Division, Henan PR China and Dr. ED Bimo Prakasa the Chairman of Trisakti Foundation.



In the session the issues and the needs of leaders to have a forward thinking and innovative ideas were emphasized especially in organizations to mentor young generations as future workers and leaders.



On the 8th to 10th November 2016, SEAMEO SEN attended ASEM LLL HUB CONFERENCE: LIFELONG LEARNING AND RESILIENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT organized by SEAMEO CELL in Ho Chi Minh City Vietnam. The conference was organized with the objectives to identify what is perceived as burning issues to the education, lifelong learning and disaster management in the coming years, to look at how vision of lifelong learning and resilience is renewed within different fields of research and what impact it has or will have on policy in those areas and in the field of disaster management and to research informed policy recommendations to policy makers and practitioners in terms of lifelong learning with a focus on disaster management and resiliency in the face of emergencies. In the conference SEAMEO SEN delegates attended meetings and networking session to find opportunity and collaboration from various universities and institutions in getting resource persons to conduct disaster management and risk reduction education for children with Special Needs. More than 100 participants from NGOs, DPOs and various organizations from Vietnam and the SEA region attended the event. The conference is coordinated by SEAMEO CELL with partnership with ASEM EDUCATION AND RESEARCH HUB FOR LIFELONG LEARNING OF DANISH SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AARHUS UNIVERSITY OF DENMARK.





SEAMEO SEN also co-organized the 7th International Seminar on Special Education together with Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI), Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM) and Universitas Negeri Malang (UM) in Universitas Negeri Malang, Indonesia on 21st January 2017. About 400 participants attended the seminar with four keynotes presenters and 130 papers presented.

The keynotes invited were Dr. Djadja Rahardja of University Pendidikan Indonesia, Prof. Dr. Fattah Hanurawan of Universiti Negeri Malang, Prof. Madya Dr. Mohd Hanafi of University Kebangsaan Malaysia and Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain Director of SEAMEO SEN who gave a keynote entitled “Reorientation of Special Education in improving self-help of children with Special Needs”.





SEAMEO SEN also attended the International Congress on Education for 21st Century “Making a Difference: Shaping a New Learning Paradigm for a Sustainable Southeast Asia” on the 3rd- to 5th May 2017 in Bangkok Thailand. The congress was organized by the Ministry of Education Thailand and SEAMEO Secretariat with more than 600 participants including high officials from the Ministries of Education of SEAMEO member countries, directors of SEAMEO centers, educators and administrators from the countries in the region and around the world. The congress was aimed at providing a platform for conversations on experiences and best practices on the implementation of the post-2015 SEAMEO education agenda (seven keys priorities) and on diverse topics that support the sustainable development as a guide for crafting new learning paradigms that are reflective of and responsive to historical, cultural and social realities.

Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain, Director of SEAMEO SEN was one of the plenary speakers in the session entitled “Making Accessible and Inclusive Quality Education Happen - Inclusive Education together with the Honourable Yedda Marie K Romualdez, District Representative, First District of Leyte, House of Representative of the Philippines, Dr Akihiro Fushimi, OIC Regional Advisor – Education,

Education Specialist, UNICEF East Asia and Pacific Regional Office (EAPRO), Thailand Ms Maki Hayashikawa, Chief of Section for Inclusive Quality Education (IQE), UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, Bangkok, Thailand and Ms Putu Wirmayani, Assistant Lecturer, Faculty of Medicine, Udayana University, Indonesia.





In the effort to support and to strengthen Technical and Vocational Education training for children with disabilities, SEAMEO SEN proposed a working paper to conduct training in TVET aimed at Special Education teachers entitled “TECHNICAL AND VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS OF SEAMEO MEMBER COUNTRIES” in the 3rd High Official Meeting on SEA TVET on the 23rd to 25th May 2017, Kuala Lumpur. The meeting was organized Ministry of Education Malaysia and SEAMEO Secretariat aimed at focusing on the discussion and presentations that help the High Officials and policy makers to identify strategies and implementation mechanisms for advancing, harmonizing and transforming TVET education to meet the 21st Century’s demands of the Southeast Asian region. More than 300 participants attended the meeting including high officials of Ministries of Education, SEAMEO centers directors and secretariat, policy makers and stakeholders of 11 SEAMEO member countries



SEAMEO SEN also took part in My Teachers Tryscience organized by Sultan Idris Education University on the 25th May 2017. The one day program was participated by 200 teachers from 10 schools in the district of Ipoh and students from the university. The program is aimed at encouraging science and technology education for children with Special Needs. Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain delivered a keynote entitled STEM Education for Children with Disabilities. During the program, SEAMEO SEN delegates also held a meeting with Faculty of Education and Human Development to discuss initiatives and collaborations.



B: INCREASED PUBLIC AWARENESS ON PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (KRA 3)

As part of the initiatives to heighten public awareness on disability issues SEAMEO SEN worked collaboratively with institutions and disabled people organizations to instill and create opportunity for the public to understand the lives and challenges faced by people with disabilities. For FY 2016/2017, SEAMEO SEN partake in numerous disability awareness campaign and also held events to celebrate disability day celebration. On 12th to 14th July 2016, SEAMEO SEN held a carnival to increase acceptance of people with disabilities in the society. The carnival held at the Specialist Teacher Training Institute in Kuala Lumpur was aimed at fostering community awareness on people with disabilities and to encourage acceptance of people with disabilities in the society



As part of initiative supporting celebrations and events celebrating people with disabilities, SEAMEO SEN joined in celebrations to commemorate World White Cane Day celebration of 2016. SEAMEO SEN attended two World White Cane Day celebrations the first was in Kuching Sarawak celebrating the International White Cane Day organized by Sarawak Ministry of Welfare, Women and community, Society of the Blind In Malaysia Sarawak Branch and Yayasan Salam. The event was participated by people with vision impairment from all over Malaysia. The event begun with walking together with people with visual impairment around Kuching city main route. International White Cane Day was officiated by YBhg Datuk Fatimah Abdullah, Minister of Welfare, Women and Community of Sarawak State. In the ceremony she presented white cane too the representatives of children with Special Needs and to senior citizens who are visually impaired. More than 300 volunteers walked at the streets of main Kuching city together with visually impaired people to celebrate the event.



On the 16th October 2016 in Brickfields Kuala Lumpur, SEAMEO SEN together with Malaysian Foundation for the Blind participated in the World White Cane Day Celebration, organized by Malaysian Foundation for The Blind (YOBM) with the support from Lions Club Kuala Lumpur, Leo Club and Brickfields Asia College.

More than 200 volunteers walked with the blind using white cane and blindfolded around the streets of Brickfields. SEAMEO SEN personnel were fortunate to be given the experience to walk and dine with our eyes blindfolded to feel and understand how person with visual impairment live and carry out their daily activities.





Both of the events were aimed at increasing visibility of people with visual impairment in the society and also to share the experience as a person with visual impairment by walking blindfolded around the city centers.

SEAMEO SEN also celebrated World Down Syndrome Day 2017 on 30th March 2017 at SMK Seri Kota, Melaka. The event was conducted together with Melaka State Education Department, Universiti Teknologi MARA Kampus Melaka (UiTM), PUSPANITA Melaka and Melaka State Welfare Department. More than 300 Down Syndrome students from Primary and Secondary School than 40 committee members and volunteers from all over Melaka state. With the theme of Sports for Special Needs, children with Down syndrome and their parents took part in various sports activities adapted to their abilities. The event is aimed at increasing social interaction and awareness towards acceptance of children with Down syndrome in the society. Activities such

as football, hoop jumping and activities that encouraged team commitment, fine and gross motor skills were organized. The children and their parents were given motivation and support to ensure that the task they were assigned to could be done within the given time. The activities carried out gave opportunities for the Down syndrome children to interact with adults/friends outside or their comfort zones which will help to build their confidence.



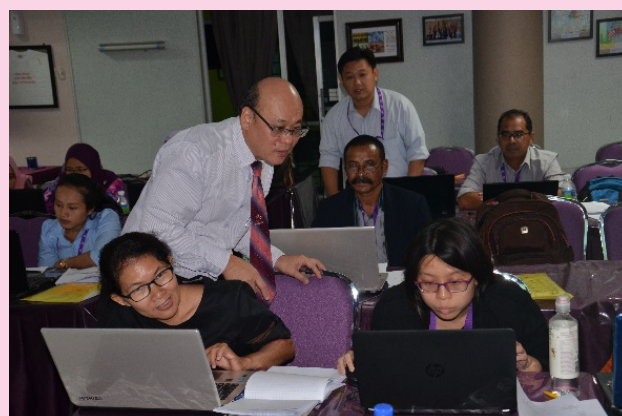
In conjunction with Autism month 2017, SEAMEO SEN together with the Kanner Society of Melaka organized the 8th Walk For Autism @ Melaka Heritage City on the 1st of May 2017. More than 2000 participants turned up to show their support for people with autism. The event saw the participants of various agencies and NGOs walking around Melaka UNESCO World Heritage Site to show their support for the cause. The event was officiated by YB Dato' Sri Rohani Abdul Karim, the Minister of Women, Family and Community Development. The Chief Minister of Melaka YAB Datuk Seri Ir. Idris bin Haron and wife Datin Seri Fadilah binti Abdullah also came to show their support on this walk. The aim of the event was to increase public acceptance of special nee special needs and children affected by autism.



C: CAPACITY BUILDING OF SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHERS IN SEAMEO COUNTRIES (KRA 2 and KRA 4)

During FY 2016/2017, SEAMEO SEN has conducted courses based on the three main categorization. Regular Courses, Customized Courses and In Country Courses for Special Education Teachers of SEAMEO countries.

There were two regular courses conducted for this Fiscal Year is Research in Special Education and Parent Support Training Net: Planning Phase that were aimed at building expertise and skills for participants as designated in KRA 4. The Regular Course: Research In Special Education was held from 31st October to 18th November 2016 and was participated by 17 Special Education Teachers from SEAMEO Member countries. Nine participants from Malaysia, two participants each from Thailand and Brunei Darussalam and one participant each from Timor Leste, Singapore, Cambodian and Lao PDR respectively. The three weeks course exposed the participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct research in the Special Education field, Quantitative and Qualitative research Skills and also how to do report writing using Microsoft Word. The experts who contributed were Dr. Jeya A/P Velu of Specialist Teacher Training Institute, Dr. Diyana Kamaruddin of University Malaysia Pahang, Associate Professor Dr. Maria Salleh and Dr. Kway Eng Hock of Sultan Idris Education University. The participants were also requested to prepare a research proposal that would be done upon completing the course. The research should be implemented during the first 12 months post training course.



The second regular course is Parent Support Training NET: Pilot Project: Planning Phase that was conducted from 27th to 30th March 2017 for Special Education Administrators from State Education Department in Malaysia, Lecturers from Malaysian Universities and Teachers Training Institute and Special Education Administrators from Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member countries. A number of 32 participants from Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Thailand, Timor Leste and Vietnam attended the 4 day course. The Resource persons were from Autism Speaks New York represented by Ms. Lucia Murillo and Ms Steph Shire. Introduction of PST NET and the technical assistance to implement PST Net training was shared. Participants also presented a 10 minutes sharing on Special Education provision of respective countries as an information to other participants. Dr. Nurulwafa bt Hussain from the Psychological Counseling Unit of Melaka General Hospital was also invited to give a sharing discussion on physiological services for children with disabilities during the course. A visit to Permata Kurnia Kuala Lumpur was also conducted as a sharing of best practices in education services for children with autism. Participants are expected to complete the translation of the PST training module and a follow up course of adapting the translated guide will be conducted early November 2017.



SEAMEO SEN also conducted short seminars and course for In Country Trainings. These courses were conducted in collaboration with universities and institutions that were aimed at increasing understanding on issues pertaining education agenda and the current trends and issues related with Special Education. The mode of training includes seminars and three or four day raining conducted in the country requested.

The first in country training was a seminar conducted as a part of SEAMEO SEN program for the 4th Governing Board Member Meeting, entitled “Enhancing the Quality of Education for Children with Special Education Needs together with Education University of Bandung and the Ministry of Education and Culture Indonesia at JICA auditorium, Education University of Bandung. More than 350 teachers from all over Indonesia and also university lecturers attended the seminar. The speakers for the event were Dr. Kamal Lamichhane of CRISED Tsukuba University, Mr. Silatul Rahim Dahman of Malaysian Foundation for the Blind, Dr. Diyana Kamruddin of University Malaysia Pahang, Dr. Haslinda Musa of University Technical Melaka, Dr. Koay Teng Leong of University of Brunei Darussalam and Prof. Hue Ming Tak of Education University of Hong Kong.





The second seminar was conducted with TRISAKTI Foundation in Jakarta Indonesia on the 24th September 2016. The seminar was attended more than 100 participants including lecturers of Trisakti Foundation. The seminar entitled by Education for Special Needs in Educational Institutions was presented by SEAMEO SEN's partners who are speakers in the field of Special Education. The speakers are Dr. Yasmin Hussain of SEAMEO SEN who gave an introduction of the role and function of SEAMEO SEN. Dr Koay Teng Leong of University Brunei Darussalam who gave an overview of Special Education and Inclusive. Dr. Andy Shih on Autism and Ms. Weningsih of Perkins School of the Blind Indonesia who spoke on Multiple Disabilities services in Indonesia.



The third in country seminar was conducted on the 25th Nov 2016. Director of SEAMEO SEN Dr. Yasmin Hussain gave a talk on inclusive education to 300 teachers of Kartini Schools under the Batam Family Foundation. The presentation was a sharing session to create awareness on inclusive education and the implementation at national levels by countries in the Southeast Asia. The Batam Foundation is under the care of Ibu Sri Soedarsono or fondly known as Ibu Dar, is a philanthropist and well known for her charity work in Indonesia. The half day seminar was organized in Budi Kemuliaan Hospital which was also founded by Batam Family Foundation.



The fourth in country seminar was conducted in City of Baguio Philippines. The two day workshop was held from 27th to 29th January 2017 entitled The Changing of Education Landscape in Special Education. Organized by Philippines Association for the Career Advancement of Educators (PACAE) led by Dr. Judy Igoy the Secretary of PACAE. The participants were special education teachers and Educators from all the region in the Philippines. Datin Dr. Yasmin Hussain was the invited resource speaker and the workshop coordinated by Ms. Mazmi Maarof. 436 participants shared their concerns and ideas on the best practices in Special Education and connected these practices with the current issues and global agenda.



Customized Courses

In FY 2016/2017, SEAMEO SEN conducted nine customized courses for Malaysian Special Education Teachers from the Special Education Integration Program and teachers from Special Education Schools together with lecturers from Malaysian Teachers Training Institute and universities. The courses are done in collaboration with NGOs and institutions as means to build capacity and skills for Special Education teachers and administrators. SEAMEO SEN worked collaboratively with the National Council of Blind Malaysia and conducted three courses on Braille and two courses on Non Visual Desktop Access (NDVA) that were participated from teachers teaching in Special Education schools for Visual Impairment. Two workshop focusing on NDVA were conducted in SEAMEO SEN and participated by 20 Special Education Teachers in Workshop 1 held on the 15th to 17th August 2016 and on the Workshop 2 held on the 17th to 19th August 2016 were participated by 19 Special Education teachers respectively. The workshop is aimed to increasing the participant's knowledge of Non Visual Desktop Visual Access (NDVA), to share techniques for teaching for student with visual impairment as well as updating their skills and knowledge of the current information of NDVA. The course is also a support to the Ministry of Education to provide the teachers with skills to cater the needs of student with visual impairment in the teaching and learning process.





A course on understanding children who are gifted and talented was conducted on the 25th to 27th October 2016 and attended by 22 Special Education Teachers from the Special Education Integrated Program from all over Malaysia. The course is aimed at introducing the characteristics of children who are gifted and the educational support that these children needs as to cater to their differences. Participants were also introduced to the PERMATA program specifically design to accommodate children who are gifted and talented in Malaysia.



SEAMEO SEN and NCBM also conducted a series on Braille courses. Three braille courses were conducted for Special Education teachers in Sabah, Sarawak and Melaka. The Unified English Braille was conducted in Sabah on the 21-22 September 2016 and participated by 22 Special Education teachers from Special School for the Blind of Tuaran and SMK Badin. On 6th November 2016, 6 teachers from Special School for the Blind of Kuching and SMK Batu Lintang participated in the same course. On the 2nd to 5th May 2017, NCBM conducted the Workshop to amend the Bahasa Melayu Braille participated by 27 teachers from all over Malaysia. The aims of these courses was to increase and update participants knowledge of English Braille, to share techniques for teaching braille for student with visual impairment as well as updating their skills and knowledge of the current information of Unified Braille. Participants were given hands on training on braille reading and also the techniques to use braille in their teaching and learning process.





As a commitment to support the Inclusive Education movement by the Ministry of Education Malaysia, two workshops on Holistic Inclusive Education Program (HIEP) Training Module participated by 29 teachers on the 21-23 February 2017 and on the 11th to 13th April 2017 together with the Special Education Division of the Ministry of Education Malaysia. The aims of the workshops were aimed at modifying and solidifying the training module of Holistic Inclusive Education Program (HIEP). The module is expected to be implemented by end of 2017 in all schools with Special Education Integrated Programs.

Participants are given a comprehensive knowledge on training on inclusive education program in their teaching and learning. The course is also a support to the Ministry of Education to provide the trainers with skills to cater the special education teacher training. The participants are also required to disseminate and share the course content at the school and districts level with their peers upon completion of the course.





In order to increase heightened awareness of children with disabilities, SEAMEO SEN and the University of Technology Mara Melaka conducted a two day short course on Sign Language for 40 students of the university on the 24th to 25th February 2017. These students were given a short introduction and basic sign language to prepare them for their community project that would be done in the special school for the deaf after the course. The Sign to Speak course was aimed at giving the students some basic communication skills for them to interact with deaf students.



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2016/2017

For this FY, SEAMEO SEN collaborated with Technical University of Melaka to produce Interactive Book on i-Solat for Special Needs Learners. The iBook is created to be used by children with Autism using graphic, sound and video animation to attract children with autism to learn how to perform solat. The iBook consisted of four parts which are "Niat Solat", "Cara Solat", "Waktu Solat" and "Uji Minda" with activity and steps to guide its user to perform solat. 35 respondents including 25 children with special needs and 10 teachers from the Special Needs Integrated Program in Melaka are involved in this project.



The next project is developing Visual Perception Diagnostic Tools for Autism Children: Vi-Per Games. Visual perception problem is very common in autistic children and they often have difficulty in recognizing, remembering, organizing and interpreting visual images. In due course, the Department of Interactive Media, Faculty of Information and Communication Technology, Technical University of Malaysia with collaboration of SEAMEO SEN has developed the autism diagnostic tool using serious games method as a tool for special education teachers to diagnose visual perception problems among autistic children.

These diagnostic tools could be used and assisted teachers to diagnose their autistic students' perception.

SEAMEO SEN awarded three research grants to University Malaysia Pahang to conduct three researches. The first completed research is Parental Mediation on Children's Television Viewing in the Homes of Blind or Low Vision Children in Malaysia commencing May 2016. The research is a phenomenology case study, on ten Malaysian parent of blind or low vision children. Parents were recruited through purposeful sampling. A semi structured interview were conducted on parents as well as observations on the children while watching television. Focus group interviews were also conducted on teachers for blind/low vision. The purpose of this research is to see how television is used and monitored in the homes of blind or low vision children compared to the way parents monitored their children with normal vision in other studies.



The second research completed is The Effect Kod Tangan Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia on Student's Achievement Among Deaf Children commencing July 2016. The aim of the research is to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of Kod Tangan Bahasa Malaysia and Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia on deaf students' achievement in classroom. The third research is the Implementation of Bahasa Isyarat Malaysia and Kod Tangan Bahasa Malaysia Teaching Tool into Android and iPad/iPhone Application. School visits and discussion with the Malaysian Federation of the Deaf has been conducted to gauge the implementation of the research. The study is still ongoing and expected to be completed in June 2018.

D: EXTENSION OF PARTNERS (KRA 1 and KRA 3)

In the FY 2016/2017 SEAMEO SEN extended partnership with three agencies to undertake research, training and corporate social responsibility by means of collaboration. The first MoU was signed between SEAMEO SEN and Technical University of Malaysia on the 5th August 2016 as an agreement to conduct research in Special Education. University Technical Malaysia will fully funded all the research activities and SEAMEO SEN would contribute to the development of content for the researches and also finding respondents for the researches.

The first two researches completed were i-solat and Viper games as diagnostic tool for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder.





The third MoU was signed on the 15th September 2016 between Rockwool Sdn. Bhd. Melaka, SEAMEO SEN and Green Technology Corporation Melaka to support corporate social responsibility for the cause of children with special needs. The MoU was signed as an agreement for SEAMEO SEN and Green Technology Corporation Melaka to corroborate Rockwool's initiative to provide insulation facilities for classrooms accommodating children with special needs in the Special Education Integrated Programs in Ayer Molek Secondary School and Ade Putra Secondary School in Melaka.



In its effort to conduct more training and programs in Special Education, SEAMEO SEN has signed an MOU with SEAMEO CELL on 8th March 2017 at SEAMEO CELL center in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Both centers together with SEAMEO BIOTROP will work together to conduct courses through sharing of resources and expertise for Special Education teachers in

the region. The first project expected to be carried out is the Urban Agriculture Training Workshop for Special Needs Teachers from Vietnam, a collaboration between SEAMEO SEN, SEAMEO BIOTROP and SEAMEO CELL. The collaboration's main objectives are to provide urban agriculture training to Special Education Teachers and teachers from community learning centers as part of initiative to provide lifelong learning skills to the participants. The skills then would be adapted and transferred to teach children with Special Needs. This initiative is a part of SEAMEO efforts to support sustainability and lifelong learning for all especially for children with Special Needs.



CONCLUSION

The programs that were implemented by SEAMEO SEN in the FY 2016/2017 reflected the ongoing effort and role of SEAMEO SEN to intensify capacity building and up scaling skills and knowledge of Special Education teachers in the SEA region. SEAMEO SEN hopes that the Ministries of Education of SEAMEO member countries would continue to support the activities, trainings and programs by SEAMEO SEN in the future. With collaborative efforts and networking activities SEAMEO SEN is able to push forward with the programs planned and also conducted additional training courses with the support from organizations in countries who requested for in country trainings.

SEAMEO SEN would like to thank its partners especially to the Ministries of Education of SEAMEO Member countries, SEAMEO Secretariat and SEAMEO CELL Vietnam, the National Council of Blind Malaysia, Autism Speaks New York, the National University of Malaysia, Melaka Technical University Malaysia, Education University of Bandung Indonesia, University of Malaysia Pahang, Melaka Green Technology Corporation, Trisakti Foundation, Batam Family Foundation, Philippine Association for the Career Advancement of Educators and Rockwool Malaysia Sdn. Bhd. Melaka and Kanner Association of Melaka for their support to SEAMEO SEN.

SEAMEO SEN endeavors to provide more trainings, research and awareness on disability events for the coming fiscal year 2017/2018. The center would continue its work to gain more collaboration and engagement with other SEAMEO center, institutions, organizations and corporations in its Blue Ocean Strategy a way forward in fulfilling its role as the regional training and research center in Special Education.