



CALL FOR RESEARCH PROPOSAL

Warmest greeting from SEAMEO Regional Centre for Special Educational Needs (SEAMEO SEN), Malaysia.

It is our pleasure to inform that SEAMEO SEN, Malaysia is calling for research proposals under its Research and Innovation Division projects.

Interested **researchers/team of researchers** are invited to submit your research proposal **by or before 9th September 2023** for the centre's considerations.

1. Proposed Research Topic

Thematic Background Research on Employability Status for Persons with Disabilities in Southeast Asia

2. Scope

In recent years, employability studies for persons with disabilities in Southeast Asia have gained increasing attention. This is because persons with disabilities have long faced significant barriers to employment, resulting in lower rates of labour force participation and higher rates of poverty compared to persons without disabilities. In Southeast Asia, where an estimated 90 million people are living with disabilities, this issue is particularly salient. Despite efforts to promote disability inclusion and employment, such as the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) by most countries in the region, disparities in employment outcomes persist.

Research has shown that the employability of persons with disabilities in Southeast Asia is influenced by a range of factors, including demographic and disability-related factors, as well as contextual factors within local labour markets. While studies have

explored the impact of these factors on employment outcomes, there remains a gap in understanding the contextual factors that influence the employability of persons with disabilities in Southeast Asia, particularly within the local labour markets. More studies are needed to investigate the challenges and opportunities for persons with disabilities to access and participate in the labour market in Southeast Asia.

Given the importance of addressing the employability of persons with disabilities in Southeast Asia, there is a need for more research in this area. This research should aim to identify the contextual factors that influence the employability of persons with disabilities, as well as to develop effective interventions and policies to promote disability inclusion and employment.

3. Research Objectives

3.1 identify current employment status for persons with disabilities in accessing and participating in the labour market in Southeast Asia;

3.2 Highlight key policies, practices and challenges of employability studies for persons with disabilities in Southeast Asia; and

3.3 Include best practices for each country that can be followed to overcome the issue of employability towards persons with disabilities (PWD) in Southeast Asia.

4. Task to be Performed

Thematic Background Research:

- a. Complementing the country case studies;
- b. Cover the theme in eleven (11) SEAMEO Member Countries;
- c. Analysis should include the key policy issues, practices, and challenges;
- d. Submit a complete thematic background research.

5. Deliverables

- a. **Conduct key research activities** (i.e., documents review, focus group discussions, key informant interviews)
- b. **1 publication** in refereed journal/proceeding
- c. **1 article** for media publication
- d. A comprehensive **thematic background research**
- e. A complete **policy brief paper**

6. Research Timeline

This research is expected to take up to a maximum **12 months**. Additional **6 months** for refereed journal/proceeding publication. Specifications of research milestones shall be discussed and agreed during the research proposal review session.

7. Proposed Methodologies

7.1 High quality in-depth primary and secondary research

- a. Academic articles
- b. Policies
- c. Media (formal/social)

7.2 Targeted key informant interviews (FGD)

- a. Ministry of Education (MOE)
- b. Ministry of Human Resource
- c. PWD Communities
- d. Industrial Player

8. Research Funding

The research will be funded by the SEAMEO SEN research grant award (**MYR30,000.00**). All research proposals must include a detailed expected financial implication which will be deliberated.

9. Eligibility

Submission is open to **researchers/team of researchers** from any local and international higher learning institutions. Each proposal must have a Lead Applicant who will be subjected to the general terms and conditions for granting.

Lead Applicants who are currently engaged with on-going research project(s) with SEAMEO SEN are **NOT ELIGIBLE** for this Call for Research Proposal.

The lead applicant is required to have:

- Master or Doctoral Degree in Education or in related fields; or
- Degree specialization in Education/ Economy/ Business/ Special Education or Inclusive Education is an advantage;
- Appointment with a local or international higher learning institution for (at least) the duration of proposed research project;
- Excellent analytical and written skills;
- Good planning and organizational skills;
- Proficient command of English.

10. Research Plan Submission

The Research Proposal must be written in **English** and shall be presented clearly and submitted together with the following:

- a. Proposed **research financial implications and Gantt chart** according to research grant award and research timeline
- b. **Curriculum vitae** of the lead applicant and potential research team member(s)
- c. Other **relevant materials** to support the proposal

All submissions must be sent via <https://forms.gle/twydKBxZxNLLmp9b9>.

An acknowledgement of receipt will be sent to the Lead Applicant once the proposal has been received by the Research Committee. All applicants are advised to adhere to the submission requirements therein, submissions that do not fulfil the requirements shall be **disqualified**.

For enquiries, kindly email us at research@seameosen.edu.my and copy to faris@seameosen.edu.my and please write the title **“Thematic Background Research on Employability Status for Persons with Disabilities in Southeast Asia”**.