



Educational Webinar 2020

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ACHIEVE QUALITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSIVENESS IN EDUCATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

October 01, 2020

1. Background:

In recent years, the Southeast Asian region has experienced dramatic growths in social and economic areas, which simultaneously stimulates the increased investments of each country in education. In particular, the region's educational systems have also undergone significant education reforms to reshape and align educational practices in order that all learners are able to experience a genuine inclusive learning environment in schools and other contexts.

Nonetheless, in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4), which calls for countries to 'ensure inclusive and equitable quality education, and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all', this diverse region still faces significant challenges in achieving educational equity and quality.

According to UNICEF's statistics, in South Asia, the current number of students dropping out of primary and lower secondary school level is 11.3 and 20.6 million respectively. Moreover, it is seen that during school closures due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the difficulties in providing education for all children and youth have increasingly been considered as an educational crisis due to the huge figure of learners affected by school closures and as inequalities in access to learning materials and technology to students in disadvantaged and marginalized areas.

For that reason, there has been a critical need for each country member in Southeast Asia to work together to enhance the inclusive and equitable quality education in the region by initiating different innovative and education reform strategies while still being well prepared for the international integration in education. The significance of this act is also clearly

emphasized in the Education 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations and the Priority No. 2 in the SEAMEO's 7 Priority Areas.

Furthermore, with a specific focus on the enhancement of quality in education, despite having fundamental practices to cope with the changes in the global and local contexts, it is evident that there still exist significant discrepancies between national reform intentions and local implementation. For example, many countries in Southeast Asia have educational policies/regulations targeting children with special needs and those from ethnic minorities, but the implementation of innovative practices related to education for this marginalized communities remains to be an issue. Therefore, educational policymakers, representatives from Southeast Asia countries and specialists of national and international organizations need to gather together not only to be updated with recent and on-going practices but also to exchange ideas and experiences on key issues and challenges of promoting inclusion and equity in education.

This year, in order to reflect the progress and strengthen the countries' capabilities for the adoption of these educational innovations in enhancing education quality, SEAMEO Regional Training Center in Vietnam (SEAMEO RETRAC), with the mission of assisting SEAMEO Member Countries in identifying and addressing educational issues, has developed a plan to organize the Webinar on "***Innovative Solutions to Achieve Quality, Equity and Inclusiveness in Education in Southeast Asia***" (*Các giải pháp đổi mới nhằm đạt được chất lượng, công bằng, và hòa nhập trong giáo dục Đông Nam Á*). This educational webinar is conducted back to back with SEAMEO RETRAC's 23rd Governing Board Meeting. Details about the webinar are as follows.

2. Key theme:

Innovative Solutions to Achieve Quality, Equity and Inclusiveness in Education in Southeast Asia

Sub-themes:

- Reform strategies to address the issues of exclusion as well as promote equity and quality in education
- Challenges of reform implementation at national and regional levels in terms of educational policies, leadership and management, as well as teaching, learning and assessment to enhance quality in education;

- Capacity building and sustained professional development for teachers, managers and leaders for improving teaching and learning quality;
- Key issues and innovative practices related to distance/online learning modalities during school closures in the COVID-19 educational crisis to ensure the continuity of learning.

3. Objectives

The 2020 Educational Webinar is organized focusing on creating a professional platform for educational leaders, educators, scientists, researchers and graduate students to not only be updated with recent and on-going practices but also to exchange ideas and experiences on key issues and challenges of promoting inclusion and equity in education. The overall objectives of the Webinar include:

- To provide an opportunity for senior educational leaders from the Ministry of Education of the Southeast Asian countries to share current practices at their own countries regarding the latest policies and strategies for promoting and ensuring inclusion and equity in education;
- To promote dialogues and collaboration among scholars, ministry-level administrators, and practitioners on the creation and adoption of educational innovations; and
- To create chances for transferring experience and strengthening coordination between education ministries and relevant institutions in Southeast Asian countries to stimulate innovative activities and cooperative actions in education.

4. Date and Time

- **Date:** October 01, 2020
- **Time:** 13:30 – 17:00

5. Speakers

Speakers of the Webinar are senior educational leaders from the Ministries of Education of the Southeast Asian countries and invited speakers from different international organizations who are invited to share their experience, expertise and research findings with the participants through their presentations.

6. Participants

The Webinar will be open for all participants in Southeast Asian countries who are interested in the aforementioned topics. Participants of the Webinar may include:

- Senior educational leaders from the Ministries of Education of the Southeast Asian countries;
- Educational administrators and researchers;
- Educational staff and governmental officials in different national and international institutions/organizations;
- And those who are interested in the topics.

7. Important Deadline

The deadline for the registration will be by **September 29, 2020**.

8. Language used

English will be the only language used for the whole Webinar.

9. Format

The educational webinar will be conducted on **Zoom** platform with two plenary sessions. Each session will involve the presentations of three to four speakers, who are senior educational leaders from the Ministries of Education of the Southeast Asia countries and invited speakers from different international organizations. Each session will be followed by discussions and Q&A sessions and moderated by an invited Chair.

Participants are required to **register the participation online** by completing the registration link and will then receive a confirmation email. Participants will be provided with access to presentations before attending the Webinar. A collection of all the presentations will be uploaded to SEAMEO RETRAC website after the event.

Link for participants to register: <https://forms.gle/5qg8PGYGuj1YD4be8>

After fully attending the Webinar and completing the evaluation form, participants will receive an **e-certificate** acknowledging their participation within a week from the event date.

8. Contact

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