



PROCEEDINGS

The 7th SEAMEO TED GOVERNING BOARD MEETING 2024

Siem Reap, Cambodia

October 17-18, 2024

I. Introduction

1. The 7th SEAMEO TED's Governing Board Meeting was held on October 17-18, 2024 at Somadevi Hotel in Siem Reap Province, Cambodia. The opening ceremony was presided over by H.E Dr. Kol Pheng Vaddhana, Undersecretary of State of the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport, Kingdom of Cambodia with the presence of Miss Pintip Iamnirath, Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, eight GB Members and representatives, one GB Member from Cambodia attending online and invited guests who are SEAMEO TED's partners and stakeholders.

II. Opening Session

1. During the welcoming remarks, **Dr. Songheang Ai**, SEAMEO TED Director welcomed honourable guests and all the participants. He expressed his deep appreciation and gratitude to all GB Members, SEAMEO Secretariat, MoEYS and honourable guests for attending the 7th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TED.

After providing a brief background of SEAMEO TED, he highlighted GB Members from 11 SEAMEO Member countries including Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam. The GB members mainly serve some key functions which include (1) to determine policies for the operation of the Centre; (2) to approve the annual programmes and budgets of the Centre within the framework of the Centre's approved five-year strategic plan; (3) to make the annual evaluation and reviews of the Centre's programmes and budgets for the SEAMEO Council's consideration; and (4) to approve the nomination of the Center Director.

Since its establishment, SEAMEO TED has organised 6 subsequent Governing Board Meetings in Cambodia starting in 2018. This 7th GB Meeting is being organised on 17-18 October 2024 in Siem Reap City. Fourteen working papers will be presented and endorsed by the board. Some working papers are proposals for approval and inputs, and reports for information, supports, and dissemination.

2. In her addressing remarks, Miss Pintip Iamnirath, Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat expressed her pleasure to join this event. The Governing Board Meeting or GBM is a significant event of our SEAMEO Centres, as this serves as a platform to reflect on achievements, discuss the progress of ongoing programmes, and explore potential future initiatives. The GBM serves as a link between SEAMEO Centres and the Ministries of Education, ensuring that the work across the 26 SEAMEO Centres and Network remains aligned with the evolving needs and priorities of the region.
3. In the face of technological change, it is tempting to try to keep pace, running after technology, innovation, and trends. However, SEAMEO takes a different approach. She believes that no matter how fast the world turns, SEAMEO's mission is not merely prepare people to chase it but to make them strong from within—building resilience, adaptability, and well-roundedness. It is not just about equipping people with education and technology, but with a multidisciplinary understanding of the world, encompassing areas like One-Health, environmental sustainability, cultural awareness, socio-economic insights, and most importantly, empathy.
4. It is through empathy—through an understanding of others—that SEAMEO encourages people to engage with the world from an "outside-in" perspective. This ability to look beyond oneself and understand the needs of society, is the true mark of an accomplished individual. It is the key to building leaders who not only excel in their careers but contribute meaningfully to their communities and to the world.
5. In the closing of her speech, she encouraged all GB Members to share their perspectives and provide valuable advice to SEAMEO TED, ensuring its contributions to capacity building in the region remain impactful and beneficial.
6. In his opening remarks, H.E Dr. Kol Pheng Vaddhana warmly welcomed everyone and expressed his pleasure to join the 7th GBM of SEAMEO TED.
7. He briefly highlighted the five strategic goals of the Cambodian government for the 7th parliamentary term. MoEYS has prioritised the “Pentagonal Strategy Phase 1” of the Royal Government of Cambodia under the leadership of Samdech Moha Borvor Thipadei **HUN MANET** Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Cambodia, setting the five priorities: **“people, roads, water, electricity, and technology”** to respond to the Industrial Revolution 4.0 and the digital transformation of Cambodia's economy and society, and the need to promote economic productivity, which is an important foundation in achieving Cambodia's Vision 2050.

8. The strategies are (1) improving healthcare services towards achieving the universal health coverage; (2) providing vocational and technical education and trainings for youths from vulnerable households; (3) institutionalising the national social assistance programmes for vulnerable households; (4) introducing coordinating mechanisms and financing programmes; and (5) deploying agricultural technical officers to all communes countrywide.
9. For the education sector, MoEYS has set reforms to promote human resources development. These main reforms focus on school model development, teacher development through teacher training institutions, digital education, science and technology, school health promotion, and youth development for the 21st century skills.
10. As technologies are introduced for imparting new skills and vocational education and training, the role of TVET teachers and trainers with digital skills is also evolving continuously. In this regard, it is understood that digital transformation in TVET has become even more crucial. Digital transformation leads to massive changes in the skill sets needed for work and life. Successful use of digital technologies is also a key factor in meeting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
11. H.E also highlighted the importance of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP), especially the collaboration between technical-vocational institutions and industries in the region, which plays a fundamental role in bridging the skills gap, boosting regional skills development for a sustainable labour force development in the region.
12. In his closing note, he expressed his belief that “Education changes lives, community and the world. Without education, the world would be in chaos. With education, it can bring darkness to light. It can bring hope from despairs”.
13. Lastly, he expressed his sincere appreciation to all GB Members, SEAMEO Secretariat, relevant partners and delegates for their presence and supports for SEAMEO TED.

Photo Session

14. After the Video Presentation, the master of ceremony invited H.E Dr. Kol Pheng Vaddhana, all GB Members, Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO TED Director and all honourable delegates and participants to pose for group photos, preceded by souvenir presentation to GB Members and representatives.

Section B

15. Miss Pintip Iamirath, Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, initiated the GB Meeting. After her greetings, she called on all GB Members to introduce themselves. She mentioned that all GB Members and the representatives who were currently present in the meeting have fulfilled the quorum.
16. The GB members and representatives who attended the 7th Governing Board Meeting of SEAMEO TED are as follows:

Country	Names	Attend
BRUNEI DARUSSALAM	Mr. Lim Kian Boon Director of Politeknik Brunei Ministry of Education GB for Brunei Darussalam	In-Person
CAMBODIA	Mr. Rath Sara Director Department of Vocational Orientation Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport GB for Cambodia	Joining Online
INDONESIA	Dr. Muhammad Yusro, <u>S.Pd., M.T.</u> Vice Deputy of Governance for Directorate for Vocational High School, Ministry of Education, Culture, Research and Technology GB for Indonesia	In-Person
LAO PDR	Mr. Santiphap Meunmany Director of Inspection, Monitoring and Evaluation Division, Department of Technical and Vocational Education, Ministry of Education and Sports, GB representative for Lao PDR	Absent with apologies
MALAYSIA	Mr. Muhammad Rumzi bin Mamat Deputy Director General (Planning) Department of Polytechnic Education and Community College Ministry of Higher Education GB for Malaysia	In-Person
MYANMAR	Dr. Than Zaw Principal Technical Promotion Training Centre GB for Myanmar	Absent with apologies

PHILIPPINES	Mr. Rowell Capistrano Supervising Education Program Specialist, Department of Education (DepEd) GB for Philippines	In-person
SINGAPORE	Dr. Goh Mong Song Deputy CEO Institute of Technical Education GB for Singapore	In-Person
TIMOR-LESTE	Mr. Paulino Henrique Ribeiro Coordinator, Office of Partnership and Cooperation The Ministry of Education of Timor-Leste GB Representative for Timor-Leste	Absent with apologies
THAILAND	Mrs. Tankamol Chimme Educator, Senior Professional Level, Office of the Vocational Education Commission (OVEC) GB Representative for Thailand	In-Person
VIETNAM	Assoc. Prof. Hoang An Quoc, Ph. D Head of Science Technology Office Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology and Education Ministry of Education and Training GB for Vietnam	In-Person

III. Election of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, and Chief Rapporteur

17. Miss Pintip, Deputy Director, SEAMEO Secretariat representative was invited to lead the election of Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Chief Rapporteur.
18. Miss Pintip led the election of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Chief Rapporteur following the SEAMEO Guidelines for Governing Board Meeting. The GB Members were required to elect among themselves a Chairperson, a Vice-chairperson, and a Chief Rapporteur for the Meeting.
19. Dr. Goh Mong Song, GB member from Singapore was elected as Chairperson; Prof. Hoang, GB Member from Vietnam was selected as Vice-chairperson; and Mr. Khairulanwar Abdullah, GB Member representative from Brunei, as Chief Rapporteur.

IV. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of the Meeting Agenda

The Chairperson thanked the GB members for entrusting him with the role and expressed his optimism for a productive discussion and meeting. He also acknowledged the good work of all on impacting youth with skills development programmes, emphasizing that skills were critical in ensuring good jobs, social mobility and socio-economic development. He also highlighted that sustainability, AI and the 4th Industrial Revolution would impact skills development and training. He then invited SEAMEO TED to present the agenda of the 7th SEAMEO TED GB Meeting and requested the GB Members to approve and adopt it.

Hw

Decision: The 7th SEAMEO TED GBM adopted the Meeting Agenda proposed by the SEAMEO TED

V. Matters for Information

WP-01/GBM-7/2024 (Matters of Acknowledgement: Significant Points, Agreements and Actions Taken on Key Agenda Items from SEAMEO Meetings in FY 2023/2024)

20. Miss Pintip Iamnirath, Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, briefly described the annual official meetings organized by the SEAMEO Secretariat.
21. She also emphasised the importance of ensuring that the activities of the 26 centres were aligned with SEAMEO's vision and mission and provided the following updates from the SEAMEO Secretariat for FY 2024/2025:
 - a) SEAMEO Results Framework and the SEAMEO MEL Strategy
 - b) Mainstreaming Gender in SEAMEO
 - c) Southeast Asia Primary Learning Metrics (SEA-PLM)
 - d) ASEAN-UK Supporting the Advancement of Girls Education (SAGE)
 - e) "Future4Girls" Programme
 - f) Empowering Teachers Initiative (ETI) Southeast Asia
 - g) SEA-Teacher
 - h) Dispatched Experts Programme
 - i) SEAMEO Centres Policy Research Network (CPRN) Summit 2024

- j) Developing Research Excellence and Mentorship in Southeast Asia (SEA DREAM)

22. In her closing note, she requested that the GB Members take note of and provide support to the significant points, agreements, and actions taken on key agenda items from SEAMEO Meetings in FY 2023/2024, as well as the updates from SEAMEO Secretariat for FY 2024/2025.

Discussion

23. **The Chairperson:** congratulated SEAMEO Secretariat for the very well-thought-out, elaborate presentation and forward-looking initiatives. He concurred with Ms Pintip's point that empathy was important, adding that such an approach would enable good programmes that support both learners and teachers. He then opened the floor for comments from GB members.
24. **GB from Malaysia:** asked if there were any STEM-related initiative.
25. **SEAMEO SEC:** replied that the third phase of the ASEAN-UK SAG programme would focus on removing educational barriers through STEM education.
26. **GB Member from Indonesia:** addressed the issues of bullying in schools, citing findings from the SEA-PLM case study in the Philippines. He emphasized the need to focus on teacher competencies, recommending that comprehensive training programme be provided to equip teachers with the skills necessary to effectively manage these challenges.
27. **SEAMEO SEC:** responded by stating that as gender issues became more mainstream, it was crucial to raise awareness and inform people. Often, those affected by abuse may not recognize it as such due to cultural norms, and similarly, those who perpetrate abuse may not realise their behavior is harmful. Therefore, building awareness is essential.
28. **GB Member from the Philippines:** explained that, in response to findings from SEA-PLM, the Department of Education (DepEd) in the Philippines had implemented an anti-bullying law and a child protection policy. Additional measures have also been introduced, including school meal provision and early pregnancy prevention, both of which are incorporated into the curriculum.

Decision: The GB Meeting took note of Matters of Acknowledgement: Significant Points, Agreements and Actions Taken on Key Agenda Items from SEAMEO Meetings in FY 2023/2024.
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WP-02/GBM-7/2024 (Matters of Acknowledgement: Endorsement of List of GB Members)

29. SEAMEO TED representative presented Working Paper 02 and to inform the meeting of the new appointment of GB Members and GB representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

Discussions

Decision: The GB Meeting took note and welcomed the new appointment of GB members from GB representatives from Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Malaysia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, the Philippines, and Timor-Leste.

WP-03/GBM-7/2024 (Annual Report in FY 2023/2024)

30. SEAMEO TED Director presented a working paper on the Annual Report in FY 2023/2024.

Discussions:

31. **The Chairperson:** was very impressed by the number of activities SEAMEO TED was planning to do. Trainings and workshops are very important. He suggested using other internet platforms (such as YouTube) in addition to webinars to expand outreach to more participants.
32. **GB Member from Malaysia:** mentioned job mismatches and skills gaps in TVET and asked how seriously efforts are being made to address these challenges.
33. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** replied that SEAMEO TED is working to connect schools and industry partners, facilitating collaboration between them. SEAMEO TED coordinates efforts to help workers secure employment in China by collaborating with Chinese stakeholders and ASEAN partners, including establishing WhatsApp group for coordination. Besides China, SEAMEO TED has partnerships in other countries, such as South Korea, and plans to expand similar initiative to Japan and Finland.
34. **GB Member from Indonesia:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on its achievements and highlighted the importance of skilling, reskilling, student internship and teachers exchange programmes.

35. **GB Member from the Philippines:** It is important to identify the needs of the industry through labor market information system (LMIS) and to share labour market information system across the region and the importance of key employment generators. To be merge in item 37. This is to avoid qualification redundancy and the oversupply of skills in the areas that are not big enough to cater graduates of a certain qualification.
36. **The Chairperson:** shared Singapore's experience on apprenticeship, which had been effective in achieving good employability outcomes. Apprenticeship could help address the challenges of the training relevancy and skills mismatch. He recommended looking to and learning from European countries with extensive experience in apprenticeship (such as Germany, France, Switzerland).
37. **GB Member from Vietnam:** shared that Vietnam has a strong collaboration with Finland in teacher trainings and seeking co-funding opportunities to improve TVET teacher quality in the region.
38. **SEAMEO SEC:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on the achievements highlighted in the annual report, which included a range of activities. However, she noted that WP13 (Three-Year Operational Budget) indicated that while activities are expanding, the budget remains unchanged. She suggested revisiting and discussing this issue during the review of WP13.
39. **GB Member from Malaysia:** shared challenges he had encountered with apprenticeship.
40. **GB Member from Thailand:** discussed her experience with a public-private collaborative apprenticeship model, which provided students with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience before graduation while receiving a stipend from the industry.
41. **GB Member from Philippines:** mentioned a similar collaborative model in his country. He also inquired whether tax exemptions were offered as an incentive to the industry.
42. **GB Member from Brunei:** congratulate ITE Singapore for their Apprenticeship schemes. Politeknik Brunei has recently launched its hospitality and tourism program, by collaborating with the industries to develop the apprenticeship programme
43. **The Chairperson:** proposed to have online discussion for GB Members to share their different experiences about the apprenticeship programmes, or to conduct research to find out about the impacts of apprenticeship in the region.

44. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** commented that TVET is a school-to-work approach, emphasising that if students end up working in fields unrelated to their studies, it represents a missed opportunity and wasted resources. He thanked GB Member from Vietnam for suggesting Finland's funding for CPD for TVET teachers, acknowledging that, despite supportive policies, challenges persist and continuous government support is essential. For instance, due to the labour laws, students under 18 are unable to work or participate in apprenticeships. He also addressed the suggestion of tax exemptions by the GB Member from the Philippines, noting it as an effective strategy to enhance private sector involvement.

Decision: GB Members took note of these achievements and provided suggestions for better improvement and advancement for the next activities.

WP-04/GBM-7/2024 (Report on China-SEA Partnership Workshop)

45. SEAMEO TED representative presented the report on China-SEA Partnership Workshop.

Discussions:

46. The Chairperson congratulated SEAMEO TED on the work done particularly in reaching out to the schools. The Chairperson also encouraged SEAMEO TED to reach out to more schools in the future to participate in the workshops.
47. GB member from Malaysia received very positive feedback from delegates from Malaysia.
48. The Chairperson thanked SEAMEO TED for this initiative and proposed that other GB Members support and help expand it to the other countries.

Decision: GB Members took note and provided more advice on the future plan of the network.

WP-05/GBM7/2024 (Report on China-Southeast Asian Capacity Building Workshop on Transforming TVET and Adult Education for Rural Sustainable Development)

49. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Report on China-Southeast Asian Capacity Building Workshop on Transforming TVET and Adult Education for Rural Sustainable Development.

Discussions:

50. **The Chairperson:** thanked SEAMEO TED for the achievement, the program was very useful in addressing the needs of different stakeholders. He opined that training for rural areas was contextualized to the local needs and culture of the areas.
51. **GB Member from the Philippines:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on this achievement and asked whether micro certification was being offered for such workshop.
52. **SEAMEO TED:** acknowledged and thanked Singapore for its support. Despite having no rural areas, Singapore still sent a representative to attend this programme.
53. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** referred to micro-credentialing as part of their plans to collaborate with the British Columbia Career College Association in Canada. He noted that they aim to align this initiative with ASEAN context. Although it remains difficult, they are making progress towards it.
54. He further mentioned that in Cambodia, this is referred to as Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for teachers. On the back of the certificates, the course modules and number of course hours are listed. He also noted that the Ministry issues the certificates, while the committee assesses the specific course criteria.
55. **GB Member from Indonesia:** There are 3 of her representatives joined the program. They established MOUs with Ningbo Polytechnic. She would like to have an update of the progress. While only one school signing MoU with Ningbo, but the Government also wants the whole East Java region to establish partnerships with China.
56. **GB Member from Malaysia:** appreciated that China programme that SEAMEO TED led with an emphasis on rural areas. In Malaysia, lifelong learning is emphasised, with hours of informal learning contributing toward a qualification. He suggested that training for micro-credentials should be democratised.
57. **The Chairperson:** praised SEAMEO TED as a match maker and catalyst for GB members countries in formulating not only the programmes but also the connections between the academic institutions and the industry.
58. **SEAMEO TED:** added that 29 MoUs have been established, with the number continuing to grow.

Decision: GB Members and representatives took note of the Working Paper on SEAMEO TED's Report on China-Southeast Asian Capacity Building Workshop on Transforming TVET and Adult Education for Rural Sustainable Development

WP-06/GBM7/2024 (Report on TVET Leadership and Management Benchmarking Program II 2024)

59. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Report on TVET Leadership and Management Benchmarking Program II 2024

Discussion:

60. **The Chairperson:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on another good initiative, especially with attention given to promoting entrepreneurship.
61. **GB Member from Malaysia:** asked whether a gap analysis has been conducted between China and ASEAN to assess how far ahead China is. If not, he suggested that one should be conducted.
62. **SEAMEO SEC:** commented that benchmarking with China is challenging, as China is significantly larger than the entire region. Rather than comparing with China, she suggested exploring ways to collaborate by considering how each can complement the others.
63. **The Chairperson:** thanked GB member from Malaysia for sharing the term “democratising” education. He added that learners were able to access alternative training opportunities through learning on open internet platform such as Coursera and others to level up their skills. Also, he congratulated SEAMEO TED on working with partners not only in the region but with China, South Korea, Japan and Finland.

Decision: GB Members and representatives provided inputs and recommendations and approved SEAMEO TED's TVET Leadership and Management Benchmarking Program II 2024

WP-07/GBM7/2024 (TVET for Digital Transformation: Strategies for Future-Ready Workforce)

64. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Report on TVET for Digital Transformation: Strategies for Future-Ready Workforce.

Discussion:

- 65. **The Chairperson:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on this achievement.
- 66. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** shared that they are making efforts to cooperate with various partners, not only within the region but also in China, South Korea, and Japan. For instance, last year, they collaborated with Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA).

Decision: GB Members took note and endorsed TVET for Digital Transformation: Strategies for Future-Ready Workforce

WP-08/GBM7/2024 (Report on Regional Cooperation with TVET Institutions)

- 67. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Report on Regional Cooperation with TVET Institutions.

Discussion:

- 68. **The Chairperson:** acknowledged this achievement with many partnerships established via MoUs. He recommended that there should be a timeline drawn up to track the MoUs and follow up on the areas of collaboration.
- 69. **SEAMEO TED:** replied that they initiated the process to get these MoUs signed; however, the implementation relies on both parties. They acknowledged that some partnerships have become inactive and have made efforts to minimise this issue.
- 70. **GB Member from Indonesia:** thanked SEAMEO TED for the cooperation with institutions, noting that Indonesia has 44 public polytechnics, and 14,000 vocational high schools. He emphasised that there are certainly ways to enhance these established partnerships.
- 71. **SEAMEO SEC:** noted that, regarding inactive partnerships, there may be a need to actively engage with partners more empathetically, as many are unaware of what to expect. She shared the example of a SEAMEO associate member who aims to build cities of innovation and focuses on higher education without fully considering the country's strengths and identifying the technologies that would best reinforce those strengths.
- 72. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** replied that they have many partners and encourages staff to follow up through emails. At the beginning of each year, they

identify specific partners and communicate with them to plan collaborative activities, which may include resource contributions, financial support, or expert involvement.

73. **The Chairperson:** commended SEAMEO TED on the success of this programme.

Decision: GB Members took note, advised on Regional Cooperation with TVET Institutions and endorsed this initiative.

WP-09/GBM7/2024 (Proposed Activities for FY 2024/2025: Training Programs and Workshops)

74. SEAMEO TED presented a worker paper on Proposed Activities for FY 2024/2025: Training Programs and Workshops.

Discussion:

75. **GB Member from the Philippines:** The Philippines is willing to cooperate and is considering how this workshop and training can offer CPD units to attract more teachers to participate in this activity.
76. **GB Member from Malaysia:** suggested including programmes such as cyber security and work-based learning.
77. **GB Member from Vietnam:** also expressed interest in the student exchange programme and requested more details about it.
78. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** replied that they first planned, get approval from GBM, and then proceed to work on further programme details. Some programmes have already received the green light from partners and secured financial resources for implementation.
79. **GB Member from Brunei:** Highlighted his willingness to engage in some of these activities, such as determining the necessary resources; and expressed his readiness to support and cooperate with this programme.

Decision: The GB members and representatives provided inputs, recommendation and approval on the proposed trainings to be conducted in the next fiscal year and provided necessary support and coordination for this project implementation.

WP-10-GBM-7/2024 (Research Study on School Health Influences Technical Education Students' Learning Outcomes in Cambodia)

80. SEAMEO TED presented a worker paper on Research Study on School Health Influences Technical Education Students' Learning Outcomes in Cambodia

Discussion:

81. **The Chairperson:** commented that it was a very important research project and asked GB Members to comment on it.
82. **GB Member from Indonesia:** asked whether participants from other countries were involved.
83. **The Chairperson:** emphasised that research on school health tended to be influenced by several factors, one of which was socio-economic factors that affect students' physical wellbeing and emotional wellbeing. He also shared that increasingly more students are gaming for long hours, and this affects emotional wellbeing, which may impact their academic performance.
84. **GB Member from Malaysia:** asked if any part of the research focused on mental health.
85. **SEAMEO TED:** replied that, so far, they have not focused on mental health, but they would like to do so in the future.
86. **GB Member from Malaysia:** asked if socioeconomic status affected the results of the research.
87. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** thanked the GB Members for their comments and questions. He highlighted that student health in TVET is very important, as TVET is often associated with being "Dirty, Demeaning, and Dangerous." He questioned how this perception impacts student learning outcomes and dropout rates. He noted that they have conducted secondary research focusing on 21st-century skills of TVET teachers in ASEAN member countries and plan to use the SEA School Network to carry out this research. Mental health is another important topic that was raised by their Undersecretary of State as well.
88. **GB Member from Malaysia:** highlighted another issue regarding the disparity in social status, from well-off families to those less fortunate. He inquired whether this imbalance in social status affects the research findings.
89. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** acknowledged that it does have an impact and explained that they are considering this type of inclusivity, including expanding

opportunities for access to education, healthcare, and more. Inclusivity will be a key factor in future research.

90. **SEAMEO SEC:** asked whether, if this research were conducted in general education schools rather than in TVET school setting, the results would be the same.
91. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** replied that he could not determine that.
92. **SEAMEO SEC:** explained the reasoning behind her question, nothing that differences in results might be from socioeconomic factors and lifestyle than from the type of education students receive (whether basic education or TVET). For example, students in rural areas might face malnutrition, while those in urban settings may experience issues like obesity.
93. **The Chairperson:** thanked members for the comments and solutions provided and acknowledged that mental health is a challenging issue.
94. **GB Member from Vietnam:** shared that in his university established a student well-being center to support students facing challenges. The center provides assistance to students during their studies. Initially, few students visited, but attendance has now significantly increased.
95. **The Chairperson:** observed that the students today were more forthcoming to seek support on mental health. They were more open to acknowledge their condition and seek the necessary support. Increasingly, counselling is not perceived as a stigma but as a service to support mental wellness.
96. **GB Member from the Philippines:** suggested that maybe we should consider to integrate health in the curriculum, not only in one subject but across all grade level.
97. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** mentioned that in Cambodia, there are extracurricular activities for one hour per week, depending on school availability, focusing on academic, personal and social factors, allowing teachers to provide tailored support. Some schools in Cambodia also have school counselling programmes. The research agenda, published on the SEAMEO TED website, includes topics such as a school counseling framework for TVET in ASEAN, best practices for TVET, instructional method for TVET and more. These topics are part of the planned research agenda, which will proceed with support from partners. He emphasized the need for support from ASEAN members, and if such support is unavailable, SEAMEO TED will still work to achieve these goals through the SEA network and online platform.

Decision: The GB Members provided inputs, recommendation and approval on the Annual Operation Plan 2024 of SEAMEO TED.

WP-11-GBM-7/2024 (Proposed International Conference on Applied Research in Education)

98. SEAMEO TED presented the Working paper on Proposed International Conference on Applied Research in Education

Discussion:

99. **The Chairperson:** shared that the everyone is aware that the deadline in November is near, and called on GB members to reach out to the parties concerned for any interests and consideration to participate.

Decision: GB members took note on the proposed International Conference on Applied Research in Education.

WP-12/GBM7/2024 (Proposal on Annual Centre Operational Plan for 2025/2026)

100. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Proposal on Annual Centre Operational Plan for 2025/2026

Discussion:

101. **GB Member from Brunei:** inquired about the budget, asking what would happen if funding was not provided by partners.
102. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** replied that they can negotiate with the government on case-by-case basis, as they have done thus far.
103. **GB Member from Brunei:** further asked if there are plans to partner with others to generate income.
104. **The Chairperson:** shared that given the track record of achievements, he was confident that SEAMEO TED would find the resources to support the short fall in due course.

105. **SEAMEO SEC:** recommended that SEAMEO TED focus on achieving more impact with fewer initiatives. She noted that the activities are mostly project-based, suggesting that SEAMEO TED need not undertake numerous projects, but should instead concentrate on large campaigns that involve many stakeholders for bigger impact. SEAMEO TED should first review their portfolio and consider repackaging it to meet the common needs of stakeholders. With this approach, SEAMEO TED could explore ways to charge higher management fees.
106. **SEAMEO TED Centre Director:** responded that, so far, the government has provided remuneration for their work, but they are willing to explore alternative income streams.
107. **The Chairperson:** added that while SEAMEO TED might explore ways to generate income stream, he acknowledged the challenge given the relatively lean team.

Decision: The GB Members provided inputs, recommendation and approval on the Annual Operation Plan 2024 of SEAMEO TED.

WP-13/GBM7/2024 (Proposal on Three-Year Operational Budget Plan for FY2025/2026-2027/2028)

108. SEAMEO TED presented a working paper on Proposal on Three-Year Operational Budget Plan for FY2025/2026-2027/2028
109. **The Chairperson:** observed that some expense items for the last 2 years of the 3-year period of the budget was projected to be flat, with no increase.
110. **GB Member from the Philippines:** asked if there is a contingency plan in case the allocated budget is insufficient.

Discussion:

111. **The Chairperson:** thanked the Royal Government of Cambodia for providing budgetary support to SEAMEO TED, and stated that we have taken note and accepted the plan and will provide technical support.

Decision: The GB Members provided recommendation and approval on the Proposed Three-Year Operational Budget of SEAMEO TED which covers FY FY2025/2026-2027/2028)

WP-14/GBM-7/2024 (Proposed Venue and Date for the 8th SEAMEO TED Governing Board Meeting)

112. SEAMEO TED presented Proposed Venue and Date for the 7th SEAMEO TED Governing Board Meeting. The options for venue at Phnom Penh or Siem Reap and for the date to be either 28-29 or 5-6 October 2025.

Discussion:

113. **GB Member from Malaysia:** explained that he would be retiring, as this was his first and last meeting. He noted that Siem Reap is a good location, but suggested organizing the next meeting at a different hotel for a different experience.
114. GB members voted for the 8th GB Meeting to be held in SIEM REAP on 2-3 October 2025.

Decision: The GB Members reached an agreement and approval on the proposed venue and date for the 8th SEAMEO TED Governing Board Meeting 2025 to be held in SIEM REAP on October 02-03, 2025.

Review and Adoption of the Final Proceedings

115. The 7th SEAMEO TED GB meeting reviewed and adopted the final proceedings of the meeting. The final proceedings reviewed in this 7th GB Meeting would be sent to GB Members after the GB meeting.

Closing Session

116. The closing ceremony of the 7th SEAMEO TED GB meeting was conducted on the 18 October 2024. The SEAMEO TED Centre Director expressed his sincere gratitude and thanked to all GB Members for participation in the meeting, nothing that SEAMEO TED could not achieve this without their contributions.
117. **The Chairperson:** Offered his thanks and gratitude to SEAMEO Secretariat's Deputy Director, all the GB members and SEAMEO TED, Chairman, Dr Songheang Ai and team for a successful and productive meeting. He expressed his heartfelt thanks for all GB Members who selected and entrusted him as the

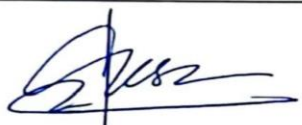
Chairperson. He congratulated SEAMEO TED for the achievements and appreciated the initiatives implemented, and thanked SEAMEO TED for the warm hospitality and doing a good job of organizing this meeting. He highlighted one of the takeaways from this meeting was the aspect of coming together, and forging friendship and camaraderie which he regarded as an important aspect of working together to build capacity for countries in terms of skills, so that they could make a better future possible for our youths. And he also expressed his aspiration to join GBM again next year. Lastly, he called on to all GB Members present to share their impressions and final remarks.

118. **GB Representative from Thailand:** congratulated SEAMEO TED on successfully organising the meeting. She also mentioned that it was a great opportunity for her to join the GB Meeting and expressed her anticipation of receiving updates on the progress report, developments, and best practices in TVET implementation. She also looks forward to future cooperation with all GB Members on potentials initiatives.
119. **GB Member from Vietnam:** thanked the Centre Director for inviting him to this event and the workshop held in China, and for bringing all the participants together. He noted that these events provided valuable opportunities for him to connect with many partners in the region and China. He looks forward to future cooperation and is confident that with the Centre Director's leadership, SEAMEO TED will achieve its goals and successfully implement all planned activities for the coming year. He congratulated SEAMEO TED on a successful GB Meeting.
120. **GB Member from Brunei:** thanked the Centre Director and SEAMEO TED for organising the 7th GB Meeting in Siem Reap and congratulated SEAMEO TED on a successful meeting. He also expressed appreciation for SEAMEO TED's warm hospitality and Miss Pintip Iamnirath, the Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, as well as the SEAMEO TED Centre Director, for sharing best practices from other SEAMEO Centres, and important initiatives. He echoed Miss Pintip's recommendation on PR strategies for SEAMEO TED to reach a broader audience and utilise SEAMEO Secretariat's platforms to disseminate activities, achievements, and research findings. He congratulated Dr. Goh Mong Song, the Chairperson, for the fantastic job as a chairperson of this meeting. He is committed to supporting the implementation of the 14 working papers and wished the Centre Director success with upcoming activities. He looks forward to the next GB Meeting in Siem Reap next year.
121. **GB Member from the Philippines:** greeted all honourable GB Members, the Chairperson of the meeting, Miss Pintip Iamnirath - Deputy Director of SEAMEO Secretariat, SEAMEO TED Centre Director and the secretariat. He expressed his heartfelt appreciation to everyone for the friendship and emphasised the

great importance of this meeting for regional collaboration in advancing responsive education and innovation across all fields. He noted that the one-day deliberation had indeed been both productive and inspiring, reflecting a shared vision of advancing technical education and skills development in the region. The resolutions and plans put forward are not just ideas, but a testament to their commitment to building a stronger and more resilient future for their respective countries.

122. He expressed his belief that the strong partnerships and cooperation nurtured here placed them in a very good position to transform these plans into complete and meaningful actions. He looked forward to continuing collaboration with everyone to empower learners, teachers, and, of course, their countries, ensuring that they collectively lead the way in educational innovation. He thanked everyone for the opportunity to join the meeting and for sharing valuable insights and inputs. He extended his congratulations and wished everyone prosperity and longevity.
123. **SEAMEO SEC:** delivered her closing remarks with some key messages. She emphasized that, with SEAMEO TED's limited financial resources, it is crucial to focus on communication strategies to gain appreciation and recognition from the government and the wider public for SEAMEO TED's work. Beyond simply holding events, storytelling is essential. She highlighted that sharing the real-life impact of SEAMEO TED's initiatives would resonate more deeply with stakeholders and decision-makers. SEAMEO TED should craft narratives and publish them on various platforms. SEAMEO TED can also utilise SEAMEO Secretariat's journals and e-library platforms to publish impact research, where dedicated staff can elaborately promote each piece of content to attract the attention it deserves, not only from the educational community, but also from policy-makers and the general public.
124. She added that SEAMEO TED can reach a larger audience through webinars that can accommodate up to 2,000 participants by utilising SEAMEO Secretariat's e-blast system, which reaches more than 50,000 subscribers. This system also allows for tracking user engagement and preferences, enabling SEAMEO TED to fine tune its message for greater feedback. She expressed her willingness to support any need for a dedicated workshop or communication strategies.
125. She concluded the meeting by thanking all GB Members for their unwavering support and congratulated SEAMEO TED for a successful GBM.

**The GB Members and Representatives approved the 7th SEAMEO TED
Governing Board Meeting held in Siem Reap, Cambodia
October 17-18, 2024**

Chairperson  <u>Dr. Goh Mong Song</u> Singapore	Vice-Chairperson  <u>Assoc. Prof. Hoang An Quoc, Ph.D</u> Vietnam
Chief rapporteur  <u>Mr. Lim Kian Boon</u> Brunei Darussalam	 <u>Mr. Rath Sara</u> Cambodia
 <u>Dr. Muhammad Yusro</u> Indonesia	<u>Mr. Santiphap Meunmany</u> Lao PDR
 <u>YBrs Ts Hj Muhammad Rumzi bin Mamat</u> Malaysia	<u>Dr. Than Zaw</u> Myanmar
 <u>Mr. Rowell Capistrano</u> Philippines	 <u>Mrs. Tankamol Chimme</u> Thailand
<u>Dr. João Maupelo</u> Timor-Leste	 <u>Dr. Songheang Ai</u> SEAMEO TED Director
Pmtip <u>Miss. PINTIP IAMNIRATH</u> SEAMEO Secretariat	